

976

CRITICAL REMARKS
On a LETTER ascribed to
COMMON SENSE

CONTAINING

An Attempt to prove that the said LETTER is an
Imposition on *COMMON SENSE*.

WITH

A Dissertation on Drowsiness,
AS THE
Cruel Cause of that IMPOSITION.

Rarus enim fermè Sensus Communis in illâ
Fortunâ ————— Juv.

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The DEDICATION.

To his DEMI-REVERENCE.

S I R,

FLATTERY is the reigning Vice of Dedications, and for keeping Possession of this Part of an Author's Works may plead long Prescription. A shining Assortment of Virtues from one Hand, and a handsome Remittance in Guineas from another, have obtained to be held a reasonable Piece of Commerce in the literary World; in as much as by this Means each of the contracting Parties gets rid of a Superfluity that can be well spared, and the Necessities of both are supplied. Hence has been derived a Redundancy of Dedications, which deceive all who do not read them backwards, as if they were each of them a Witch's Prayer. I say not all this to demand my Privilege of covering a Patron's real Defects with imputed Accomplishments, as *Cæsar* hid a bald Pate with Laurels, or rather as our first Parents concealed certain Parts with Fig Leaves. That I might have no Need of applying to the Allowance of an established Custom for Protection, I have chosen in your Demi-Reverence an Object of Admiration, which a *Pliny* himself would not be able to decorate with unmerited Praises. Such an Object, that it may be viewed with Ease and Delight, requires rather to be diminished by Judgment than to be magnified by Invention. Where else could I have found an universal Genius, eminent in the Field and in the Cabinet, on the Bench and near the Pulpit, in Houses of various Appellation and Business and in Places of all Kinds of Resort, in the State House and in the Coffee-House, in the Court Yard and in the Church Yard, on ordinary Days and on Festivals, in the Morning Study and at the Evening Club, on Horseback and on Foot, in the rude Huzzas of the gaping Mob and in the most ornate Applauses of Taste and nice Discernment, in Manuscript and in Print? You alone are able to connect and reconcile Qualifications the most discordant (when not under the Reins of uncommon Discretion) without suffering the Brilliancy of the one in the least to impair that of the other: A violent Attachment to Authority, with a burning Zeal for private Property and Justice; a most profound Respect for Majesty, with an inflamed Passion for Liberty; a courtly Politeness, with a rustick Love of Truth and Candour, in Heart as well as Mouth; the Acrimony of political and religious Controversy, with the sprightly Sallies of Gaiety and Humour; solid Argument and deep Erudition, with the softest and most winning Graces of Language.—I could easily hold on at this Rate, until I had drawn a whole Book out of a single Topick, was I not afraid of offending your extreme Modesty, or of provoking your boundless Generosity to open your Purse Strings and shower upon me such a Flood of Riches, by Way of Gratuity, as would

DEDICATION.

overwhelm me with Care and Anxiety, and quite spoil me for hereafter performing any useful Part as a Member of Society.

This Sketch of your well known Character, short and imperfect as it is, might I own bring me into the Danger of being accounted a Fawner, was the Reader to look upon your last Publication as your top Performance, and the very Acme of your Attainments. I therefore caution him to consider that it was written, as you yourself have taken Care to inform him, for Amusement; and, as I hope to make appear (that your Reputation may imbibe no Stain from hence) in an uncomfortable Hour, when you were in a Mood fitter for any other Employment than that of writing. If the Reader will contemplate it with a curious and inquisitive Eye, as he would the Ruins of a noble Structure almost devoured by envious Time, or the elegant though mangled Scrap of a Statue equally hurt by Gothic Negligence or religious Rage, applying the Rule of *ex pede Hercules*, he will be able to acquire some tolerable Idea of what you *have* been and what you *will* infallibly be again, whenever the Gloominess which has for some Time past sat upon your Faculties shall break away, and your Reason once more resume its victorious Lustre.—*Neque semper Arcum tendit Apollo.*

I am your faithful Servant,

And most constant Admirer,

The RECTOR's AMANUENSIS.

The INTRODUCTION.

— Gentlemen, quothe he, my Master Don Quixote de la Mancha, once called the Knight of the Woful Figure, and now the Knight of the Lions, is a very judicious Gentleman, and talks Latin and his own Mother Tongue as well as any of your Varsity Doctors —

See the BRAYING ADVENTURE.

WHAT a sad and deplorable Misfortune it is to be troubled with the Itch ! To be convinced that scratching will make the Sore rather worse than better, and yet to find that the Forbearance of scratching asks such Strength and Firmness of Mind as is very difficult to be acquired, even by one whose reasoning Faculties are quite alert, and not in the least overlaid by the additional Disorder of a lethargick Habit ! Do not be offended, facetious Colonel. I mean nothing but that noble Itch which is apt to seize the Learned, and is called by them *Scribendi Cacoethes*; which is, in plain English, an evil and inveterate Itch of scribbling. I know such Evils must be; and therefore, whatever I may suffer from their contagious Influence and Operations, I prepare myself to bear it with as much Resignation as I sometimes do the Oppression of a southerly Fog, not to be removed until the Weather changes. Nay I go further than this, and encourage in my Breast as much Compassion as possible for the Person first affected by such an irresistible Malady ; even after he has been so communicative as to impart to me the Pleasure and the Pain of this mixed Kind of Calamity. This Malady is indeed so well known to be irresistible in its Incentives by human Fortitude that when you some Time ago made publick your Resolution to throw away that sharp Sword your Pen and retire in Safety behind the Buckler of silent Contempt (a voluntary and generous Act of your own, not at all imposed upon you by the Want of Ability to support the Attack) great Odds were laid that you would no more be able to keep this noble Resolution for one Twelvemonth than most People are to avoid striking for the Space of a Minute the cruel Wasp who has fastened his Sting into some tender Part of the Body within Reach of the vengeful Arm ; though they are very sensible at the Time that it would be the best and safest Way to let the wrathful Insect finish the Work he is about free from Molestation. If these Adventurers have been for some Months past in Jeopardy for their Wagers, they have been now amply repaid by the Ecstasy which commonly accompanies the winning a Bet that had been thought almost desperate. I heartily wish, for your Benefit and my own, that I was acquainted with what would cure you, and save me from further Infection. Brimstone is infallible in the ordinary Distemper, which contents itself with external Attempts, and invades only the Joints ; but, alas ! the grand and literary Itch, that descends from the Brain, passes through the Nerves to the Fingers, and vitiates as it goes along the whole Mass of Blood, and the animal Spirits themselves, has been by ancient Physicians of great Repute for their Study of this particular Disorder con-

fessed to be the *Opprobrium Medicorum*. They explode the Notions of their Predecessors, who prescribed a Voyage to *Anticyra*, and affirm that three Islands of Hellebore are by no Means sufficient for the Remedy proposed. Under such authoritative Denunciations of the Incurableness of such a Patient, from such Adepts in the Art of Medicine, all my Hopes and Comfort arise from some Reflexions which could not escape me on the surprising Attempts and Success of modern Practitioners, who are often able to effect what seemed to those wise and worthy Personages the Ancients beyond the Reach of human Powers, especially when their Acuteness and Profundity for Investigation and Discovery are whetted and excited by the bewitching Irritation of pecuniary or other Rewards. I therefore offer the Bounty of a Volume neatly bound and lettered, containing all the Works of the Literati published in the present Dispute, to any Person who shall be so ingenious and so happy in his Researches as to find out and produce a certain and radical Cure for that Distemper, which rages so much at present among the unhorned Cattle, and is sometimes not improperly denominated *The Groans of the Press*, as it is able to extort Complaints from inanimate Things, and even Wood itself, the most renowned for passive or rather unfeeling Stupidity.

What a cunning and fruitful Stratagem it is in the Writers on the other Side to shelter themselves under the Protection of the most approved Terms, and most justly revered Names ! Hence their Antagonist, the Rector, has been obliged to undergo many sagacious Admonitions in an epistolary and friendly Correspondence, if it may be so called, with one to whom he never directed a single Letter ; has been attacked by the immutable Laws of Right and Wrong, indisputable Facts, Demonstration, Reason, and Truth ; and now at last by Common Sense. By this Mean Enemies gain many Advantages. They fix the Stamp of Authority on their own Performances. They make it ridiculous, if not impious, to contend with them. And they forestall the critical Acumen of their Readers, who would otherwise be left to the free Exercise of their own Judgment, and to their ancient Right of determining for themselves, whether what they have been perusing be or be not agreeable to the immutable Laws of Right and Wrong, indisputable Facts, Demonstration, Reason, Truth, and Common Sense. A dangerous Power this to be trusted in any other Hands but his own, by a Writer who has had Opportunity to experience, and therefore Reason to be acquainted with, the malignant Temper of censorious Readers ! But on the other Hand, as I was saying, or going to say, what a cruel Contrivance, and inhuman Piece of Sport it is in his Adversaries to set the Rector a tilting against the immutable Laws of Right and Wrong, indisputable Facts, Demonstration, Reason, Truth, and Common Sense ! In Combat with whom, backed too sometimes by prejudiced Spectators, it would have been a Miracle indeed if he had not found himself overmatched. I cannot help representing to myself with what infinite Satisfaction a Writer of this Cast must sit down, after finishing his Work, and with what a

malicious Complacency he must enjoy some such Soliloquy as the following. I have done for him now. He has conjured down the Apparitions of Charity and Necessity, that were raised to obstruct his Way, it must be acknowledged. But what ! will the Madman fight against the immutable Laws of Right and Wrong, against indisputable Facts, against Demonstration, against Reason, against Truth, against Common Sense ? Pooh ! never believe it, old Sure Card, that he will dare to look thee in the Face, surrounded with such an invincible Body Guard. Yet suppose, what is not to be supposed, that he should have the Effrontery to start up once more, at the worst thou canst kill him with a sudden and unexpected Stroke of thy silent Contempt ; or if there be any Danger that this should not be enough to do his Busines, thou canst step forth once more to declare to him and the World how much thou despisest him and all his Works ; which will undoubtedly be sufficient to provide against the Shortness of his Memory, and hinder it from consigning him over to a quiet Forgetfulness of the Terrors of thy private Dislike and Aversion, which all such impudent and wretched Opponents ought for ever to tremble under.

Had not the Inanity of this Muster Roll of the immutable Laws of Right and Wrong, indisputable Facts, Demonstration, Reason, Truth, and Common Sense, been easily discernible, and very glaring ; had the Phantoms taken such Shapes and Appearances, and acted their Parts in such a Manner, as to have been able to impose themselves upon a moderately careful Observer, for the Realities which they were willing to be esteemed, the Rector must to be sure have long ago fled from the Face of such Enemies. Nor for my Part should I now venture to take up the Cudgel in his Behalf, and in so desperate a Cause ; but as it is plain that the said Phantoms hardly deserve to be accounted even the Shadows of those Substances, for which they modestly insist to pass, I may be allowed I think to expect, without Vanity, that I shall come off tolerably well in an Encounter which I can look upon in no other Light than as a Kind of *Skiomachia*, wherein it will be a great Disgrace to be beaten, and little Glory to be hailed a Conqueror.

Besides the Sufficiency of my own Penetration to see through the Fallacy prepared to deceive the Rector on the present Occasion, I have it from Eye-Witnesses that this Colonel Dismounted, and Dissertation on the Constitution (as the Performances of the Colonel commonly have been) was read to the Mob at a Court-House, several Times, before it was offered to the Press, by the Author ; who appeared, to the above Witnesses, in the ordinary Shape of Colonel *Bland*. The Colonel may perhaps plead that what was agreeable to the Sense of the Mob at a Court-House, and produced their Acclamations, must needs be agreeable to Common Sense ; and, when fathered upon him, give him great Pleasure, by doing him a singular Favour. But whether it was Common Sense that dictated to him to bring his Piece before the Mob, as the best Judges and fittest Persons

to give an Imprimatur, seems a Question of no hard Resolution. *Moliere*, they say, used to read his Comedies to an old Woman, before he brought them upon the Stage; but every Body will not allow that a like Method of Trial is proper, much less infallible, for a Colonel Dismounted, and a Dissertation on the Constitution of *Virginia*. However, be this as it will, I cannot but think that for the same Person, in the same Dispute, sometimes to appear as Colonel *Bland*, and sometimes as Common Sense, is the same Kind of Absurdity as that which he is guilty of who jumbles together and makes a strange heterogeneous Mixture of the Literal and the Metaphorical in one and the same Description or Sentence. And if I have stripped the Daw of his Peacocks Feathers; if I have shown that I am not so mad as to encounter the Lion, but only the Lion's Skin, thrown over a less formidable Animal, with Intent to cover, if possible, his natural Weakness; if I have dispelled the Mist that threatened to impede my Progress at setting out, and hereby made it plain that I have no Occasion to petition for the Boon sued for by *Ajax* in that sublime and justly admired Request,

Ζεῦ πάτερ, αλλὰ σὺ ρῦσαι ὑπὸ νέρος νῖας Αχαιῶν·

Ποίησον δὲ αἰθρῆν, δόξαν δὲ φθιαλμότοις ιδεόθαι·

Ἐν δὲ φάτι καὶ διεσσον, ἐπει τοι εὐάδειν θέω.

Il. P. 645.

If, I say, I have done all this, I have so far done what I intended: I have Reason to rejoice in my Labour; I have gained a great Point; I have made a clear Stage; and now, the Colonel being unmasked, and reduced to his own unsophisticated Figure, he and I may fall to, in open Daylight, for the Entertainment of the Spectators.

But if any Reader can yet entertain the least Doubt whether the Piece I am preparing to consider was written by the Colonel or by Common Sense, whom I take to be very different Persons, it remains for him to seek fuller Conviction in the most pressingly necessary Advertisement prefixed by the Author, whoever he was, to his Letter. “I think it necessary (says he) to advertise the Readers that this Letter was drawn up (*drawn up!* Has not the dismounted Colonel got on Horseback already in the very Act of *drawing up* his Forces? But to go on with the necessary Advertisement) above eight Months ago, purely for Amusement; but from a Motive which has prevailed with me, I N O W make it publick. (The Word NOW in Capitals, because it had been published several Times before to the Crowd; but is now emphatically published, by being printed.) To distinguish his Reverence’s elegant and polite Language, the Quotations from his inimitable Works are printed in Italick Characters.” This necessary Advertisement was plainly *drawn up* to give the Readers four Pieces of Intelligence; namely, when the Letter was written; what it was written for; what prevailed on the Writer to make it publick N O W; and to enable the Readers to distinguish the Rector’s Expressions, with which the Letter is some-

times larded, from other Mens. Does it signify a Straw to the Readers when the Letter was written? Was there any Danger that the Readers should so far mistake as to imagine that it was written for any Thing but pure Amusement? Could any Thing else be supposed to have prevailed with the Writer to make it publick NOW, or at any other Time, but a *Motive*? Are Italick Characters needful to distinguish Quotations from the Rector's Works? Or, if they be, can they be fit to perform this Office, when other Peoples Expressions, as well as his Reverence's, are put in *Italicks*? It is manifest then that the Readers, from this necessary Advertisement, receive Information in four Articles: Needless Information in the first two, Information of nothing in the succeeding one, and false Information in the last Article. NOW, Readers, believe, if you can, that this necessary unmeaning Advertisement was written by *Common Sense*, or any of his Train. Believe, if you can, that *Common Sense* is capable of being so immersed in Slumber as to stumble at the Threshold in this Manner, which is generally reckoned very ominous.

The Colonel, whose immense Reading even exceeds the Vastness of his Judgment, was, I am perswaded, taught the Management of *Italicks* and CAPITALS to so much Advantage by the following Passage in the Connoisseur. " When an Author is in Doubt whether the Reader will be able to comprehend his Meaning, or indeed whether he has any Meaning at all, he takes Care to sprinkle the Sentence with *Italicks*; but when he would surprise us with any Thing more striking than ordinary, he distinguishes the emphatical Words by large staring CAPITALS, which overtop the rest of their Fellows, and are intended, like the Grenadiers Caps, to give us an Idea of something grand and uncommon. These are designed as so many Hints to let the Reader know where he is to be particularly affected, and answer the same Purpose with marginal Directions in Plays, which inform the Actor when he is to laugh or cry. The Practice is most remarkable in Pieces of modern Wit and Humour; and it may be observed that where there is the least of these lively Qualities, the Author is most desirous of substituting these Arts in their Room; imagining that by a judicious Distribution of these enlivening Strokes in different Parts of it, his Work, however dull in itself, will become smart and brilliant."

I doubt not but the Reader by this Time is at least convineed that the Child in Dispute might, with more Show of Reason, have been attributed to Sir Francis Wronghead in the Play, than *Common Sense*. For my Part, I shall henceforward take it for granted that it is no other than the spurious Issue of a soft Intercourse between the Colonel and Madam Drowsiness. If the Reader cannot yet go with me this length, I refer him to another probable Argument, which will arise from inspecting and examining the Features and Lineaments of this puling and froward-

Offspring: Observe I say probable Argument, which is the utmost of my Pretensions, in so nice a Debate. When we see a perfectly black Child, though it be not strictly demonstrable, we generally allow it to be in the highest Degree probable that the said Child is descended from black Parents; and if my Remarks shall afford such a probable Proof as this, I shall think I have acquitted myself with great Exactness and Punctuality. *Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci.* Pardon me, Reader, if you should not always discern the Force, Fitness, and Propriety, of my Quotations from approved Authors: My Design in introducing them is only to show my Learning, without which Method of doing it I should make no Figure in Company with the Colonel; but infallibly draw, as the Rector has done before me, the Colonel's extreme and tremendous Contempt of my tinsel Wit, less alas than nothing in Comparison with his solid Sense and Sterling Repartee.

The weighty Bullion of one Sterling Line,
Drawn to French Wire, will thro' whole Pages shine.

The Manifestation of which, walk in and see exhibited.

CRITICAL REMARKS

On a LETTER ascribed to

COMMON SENSE.

DO not be afraid, gentle Reader, that I shall go on in remarking on the Letter itself, as I did in remarking on the necessary Advertisement prefixed to it. At that Rate we should never finish. The Colonel commonly says what he pleases, without producing or referring to those Passages of the Rector's Works which appear to give him Concern. Every one to his Way. I shall, after the Rector's Example, take a different Route, because I think it the fairest.

The Colonel's first seven Pages contain a rhetorical Declamation against the unhappy Rector, which consists of ironical Praise, unmasked Severity, and many, innocent Parodies; out of all which I shall pick a few Flowers of Oratory, for their particular Prettiness and Fragrancy. In the very Midst of two or three smooth Periods (for the Colonel's good Humour does not last long together) with which he begins the Work, he is taken with such a Flutter that the Mask which he had just put on falls off; and he modestly, yet bluntly, drops at the Bottom of the Page a direct Charge of Impudence, drawn in some Measure from an ancient Poet, with only the Sentiment reversed, and the Harmony of the Verse destroyed. *Nullum numen abest*, says he, *si sit IMPUDENTIA*. Such gross Errours as these are not to be defended by poetical License; nor assuredly would the learned Colonel have been guilty of removing *Prudentia*, who is a very near Relation of Common Sense, to make Room for *Impudentia* to be squeezed in, if he had not used a spurious Copy of his Author, with Notes and Emendations by Madam Drowsiness, to whose Opinion on Passages not doubtful he is so un-

happily attached as not to be drawn therefrom by any Efforts and Remonstrances of Reason. But must it not grieve an old Poet to the Heart not only to be misrepresented and torn to Pieces, but so totally absorbed by a Mixture with foreign Ingredients, as that no Man can say here is *disiecti Membra Poetæ?* This is a new Way of getting a *Latin* Author on your Side, not by looking in him for what he has said that will suit with your Design or Sentiment, but by laying your Hands on the first Passage you meet with, and making it fit your Purpose, though ever so cross-grained and dissimilar in itself, to what you want to express. Dear Colonel, this is not like *Midas* touching Lead, and every Thing else into Gold, but touching Gold itself into Lead. It is behaving as one *Procrustes* did formerly, who used to fit his Guests to his Bed, instead of the Reverse, by cutting off their Feet when they were too long, and stretching them out when too short for the Measure.

That I may get all the learned Colonel's *Latin* off my Hands at once, I observe here that (P. 19) he has published *prescribere* for *perscribere*; and this he has done whenever he has taken Occasion to mention this Word, that is in the Whole about three or four Times over. Was I not satisfied that this is another of the Emendations of Madam Drowsiness, who certainly takes too much critical Liberty with ancient Authors, I should be ready to imagine that this Man of universal Talents is so much smitten with the Love of *prescribing* as to be inclinable to leave off preaching, &c. &c. &c. and betake himself to the Practice of Physick.

" A miscellaneous Oration then (P. 4) is exactly like that Kind of *miscellaneous* Writing in which, according to a noble Author, the most confused Head, if fraught with a little common-place Book Learning, may exert itself to as much Advantage as the most orderly and settled Judgment." Again, " In short, may it please your Reverence, it is just like the miscellaneous Remarks in your Single and Distinct View." There the Bolt was shot quite through the Heart and Liver of the poor Rector! Why, the above Words are mere Verjuice, sharper than wring-jaw Cider itself. We are twice told, in the Compas of a few Lines, that one miscellaneous Thing is like another miscellaneous Thing; a Discovery that deserved to be inculcated by Repetition. And this is the second, third, or fourth Time, I will not be positive which, that the poor Rector has been wounded in the same Place, by Objections to his miscellaneous Remarks for their being *miscellaneous*; his learned and critical Adversaries choosing to forget that wholesome Rule in Pope's Art of Criticism,

In ev'ry Work regard the Writer's End,

Since none can compass more than they intend.

Seriously, I am sorry to think a Matter of this unimportant Nature should give the Gentlemen so much Trouble and Uneasiness, and put them to the Expense of so many wry Faces.

" I thought too (P. 7) I should be very indifferently employed to reply in Form, as " Lord Shafesbury calls it." Did not you mind the noble Author above? You see what grand Company the Colonel keeps. No Wonder he should reckon it impudent in the Rector to reply to him. *Shafesbury* is the King of *miscellaneous Writing*. But no Matter for that, he was a Lord, and therefore good Authority for the Practice as well as the Expression of *not replying in Form*. However, the Colonel probably would not have dragged him in so ostentatiously, on so slight an Occasion, had he happened to rub his Eyes, and direct them strongly on that Passage in a modern Author which justly ridicules the Preacher who had pompously quoted the Authority of an eminent Doctor for the Use of the Words thirdly and lastly, or some Expression of that Class. The Colonel goes on, " to his Single and Distinct View, which in my Opinion carries with it its own Ridicule." How should it do otherwise, when it was written against Truth, Reason, Common Sense, and the Rest of that allied Army of Veterans? He goes on: " Neither could I be persuaded that so sorry a Performance, which perverts the Meaning of my most simple Expressions, mutilates Sentences, and makes me speak Words I never uttered." The Rector has publickly acknowledged that he did the Colonel Wrong in making him say *Mildness* for *Clemency*, and *the established Rule of Right* for *the fixed Rule of the Constitution*. And if the Colonel could have condescended to specify any horrid Mistakes of the like Nature, or any Injury done him in any of the Ways above mentioned, the Rector I make no Doubt would have owned the Error, as soon as discovered, and most humbly asked Pardon. But this would have been replying in Form, spoiling the Colonel's Declamation, and, what is worst of all, affronting Lord *Shafesbury*. The Colonel proceeds: " Would be looked upon by Men of Sense as a Refutation of my Letter to the Clergy." You see, Reader, what you have to expect. If you say the Colonel has been refuted, you will be put down with the Rector for a Blockhead. No Body surely will be so venturesome as to offend the Colonel in this Kind, after such fair Warning given of their Danger. He goes on: " And as for his tinsel Wit, if it can be worthy of that Epithet, I despised it." More Verjuice and wry Faces! What strange Dreams must undoubtedly trouble the poor Man's Repose! making him sometimes endeavour at the Air of a gay Countenance, then presently knit his Brows after a most rueful Manner, and in a Moment afterwards expels the mixed Passion composed out of the other two, by *grinning horribly a ghastly Smile*.

The Colonel concludes his Declamation with, " But that I may convince you of this Writer's Sophistry, of his Misrepresentation of the plainest Facts,

" and the constitutional Proceedings of the General Assembly, I will examine
 " his legerdemain Performances ; and I hope, irksome as the Task is, I shall
 " have Strength to go through with it." Well said, Colonel ; disenchant your-
 self from the Embraces of Drowsiness, get upon your Feet Man, and shake
 yourself soundly. This is no Time for slumbering. We shall presently see
 Wonders, if this Courage and noble Resolution do but hold.

The Colonel (P. 8) begins, contrary to his usual Custom, with citing two distinct Sentences from the Single and Distinct View, and putting them into one, after the following Form : " The Manner of his Defence has been directed by
 " the Conduct of the Attack, for he found it too great a Difficulty for him to
 " let the Merit of their Example be intirely thrown away." From these two Sentences, the Colonel concludes after this Fashion, " so that *Lex Talionis* is
 " the Rule of Retribution with this Peace making Rector." What a strange Citation has the Colonel served upon the Rector here ! Alas ! alas ! he is gone again already, and his noble Resolution is come to nothing at the very first Onset ; for it could surely be no Body but Madam Drowsiness that inspired him with the cunning Thought of leaving out the Words *too much*, which should have stood immediately before *directed* in the first Sentence, and yet of retaining the Word *intirely*, before *thrown away* in the latter Sentence. From these Expressions, it appears that the Colonel draws his Conclusion concerning the *Lex Talionis* rather too hastily, but at the same Time very properly for a Man in his Circumstances ; for to be *too much* directed by the Conduct of the Attack, and not to let the Merit of the Colonel's Example be *entirely thrown away*, that is, to bestow upon him a few light well deserved Smacks of the Whip, in Return for many unmerited hard Lashes, heartily and heavily laid on, with Submission to my Lady Drowsiness, is not an Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth. Though the Rector has apologized for imitating in some Degree the Asperity of his Adversaries, yet he has not threatened to equal them in the Way of Abuse and Obloquy. This he despaired of being able to atchieve. He was in Hopes, at the most, of doing something to keep them a little in Countenance ; and vainly (as Matters have turned out) expected, by letting them feel the Inconvenience of such Conduct, to prevail on them to lay aside Declamation and Calumny for Reason and Argument. Whatever the Rector threatened, it is apparent that he has fallen far short of the Colonel in bestowing ill Language. For where has he reproached him with his Refemblance to the *Yahoo Nature*, or roared out like a Man in an Agony that *no Good could come out of him ?* Mercy upon us, benevolent Reader, what worse could the Declaimer say of the Devil himself. For a controversial Writer to complain of a retaliating Law, that is, of his own Examples being followed, would look like Impudence in another Person ; but for him to complain of this Law, when no such Law has been put in Force against him, to complain of his having been treated with *too much Freedom*, when less Freedom has been taken

with him than he first took with his Opponent, may look like Impudence even in the Colonel. Before therefore he can bring his Conclusion concerning *Lex Talionis* to bear, he must either bestir himself with greater Vigour, and break the Shackles of Slumber a little more; or else he must compose himself to Rest in Expectation of happier Dreams. These two Methods offer themselves to the Choice of his Wisdom, but I would not advise him to let his Wisdom choose either of them until he can be sure to catch her awake.

Come we to the Colonel's next Exploit. Having cunningly supposed that the whole Merit of all that has been said in the Dispute depends solely on the Credit of each Party for Veracity, as if no publick Facts had been referred to, and reasoning used of which the Reader might judge for himself, he goes on (P. 7) with, " Then, Sir, I will convince you that the Rector has neither Truth nor Ingenuity." And adds (P. 8) " I affirm it is a false Fact, a confident Assertion, which if I prove will I presume make the Scourge he intended for others reverberate with double Force upon himself." Bravo ! we have here seen the Greatness of the Undertaking ; let us now look to the Nobleness of the Execution. The Rector, knowing that whenever any Matter of Dispute is brought before the People by Means of the Press, it is commonly then called a Paper War, accuses the two Colonels of having begun this War in too violent and furious a Manner. Our Colonel on the other Hand, alleges that the Rector, in saying they began the War, is guilty of a false Fact and a confident Assertion, which proves him to have neither *Truth or Ingenuity*. To make out this Point, he will not allow that the Word War is capable of being confined to so narrow a Sense as the Rector has used it in. He says the Bishop's Letter began the War. Now I apprehend the Colonel confounds the Occasion of War with War itself. While any Dispute concerning Property is in a regular Course before the legal Judges, I do not think that there is any Breach of the Peace. Many sharp Things may be said in a Declaration, or a Bill in Chancery ; and yet it is not usual, I believe, to call a Lawsuit, strictly speaking, a civil War. The French Depredations, though they were a Breach of the Peace, according to my Notions, may be said to have preceded the late War. Whether the Word War be taken in the Rector's confined Sense, or in the largest Sense that it can be made to bear, in the present Dispute, the Bishop's Letter did not begin the War ; but must necessarily either come before, or follow, the Beginning of the War. The Colonel, not content with insisting that the Bishop's Letter began the War, maintains that the Rector began the War. How does he make out this ? He says (P. 9) " If he was not the Clerk that drew it" (the Bishop's Letter) " still he was the Instrument ; or, that I may express myself in less ambiguous Terms, the Informer" (that Word three Times in Capitals, because the Colonel knew his Strength to lie in the ill Sound of the Word) " upon whose Evidence it was drawn up." So that, according to him, the Acts concerning which the Bishop

writes were no Evidence in themselves. The Colonel further charges the Rector (P. 10) with being “the Author, the Forger, of the Impeachment.” How does he prove all this? He says the Rector having been privy to a Memorial which he calls “Part of an invidious Libel,” must also have been privy to the drawing up of the Bishop’s Letter: And, moreover, that the Rector has since attempted to justify the Bishop’s Letter in some of the main Points. These are such tender and delicate Arguments that it is a pity to lift up a Hand against them. They may safely, I think, be left to the unopposed Execution of their full Force. However, I must have a Word or two on the Terms Informer and Impeachment, in which I take the Quintessence of the Colonel’s Argumentations and Proofs to be lodged. It was certainly very ill-natured in the Colonel to discover, and much more to take Advantage of the Discovery, that an Agent is under a Necessity of either being an Informer, or of betraying the Cause in which he is employed; and it is confessed that the Rector did inform—what? (have Patience, gentle Reader) that the Twopenny Act was in Being; for this was not known in *England* until long after the Arrival of the Rector, but by Means of a Copy which he carried. The Rector was an Informer in this Point, just as a more respectable Agent was formerly an Informer in *England* concerning a certain Fee thought to be illegal. For in Times past a Fee for every Patent in taking up Land was held a great Encroachment upon Property, though it be now contended that to make free with the Rents of Lands themselves for private Benefit is not any Encroachment worth regarding. As to the Word Impeachment, which is the Colonel’s other strong Hold, a Matter of Dispute was referred to a late Bishop of *London* for his Opinion. He gave his Opinion in a Letter, by stating the Facts, and explaining what to him seemed their Nature and Tendency. The Colonel does not in this Piece endeavour to invalidate either the Bishop’s Premises or Conclusions, but thinks it enough to repeat several of his Expressions, whether accurately or not I have not taken the Pains to examine; and to call them an Impeachment, because he knows that a Privy Counsellor, when his Opinion is required, has no Right to impeach any of his Majesty’s good Subjects, that is, to give his free Sentiments of their Conduct on the particular Occasion specified. But though such a Person will be meddling, if there was nothing wrong in any Proceedings, if all be right and sound there, Courage, noble Colonel! take Heart Man! what signifies it how many scandalous Informers and Impeachers be abroad, since the final Determination must be given by Persons who, whatever your present drowsy Habit may lead you to think of them, are very competent Judges, very quick-sighted, of great Comprehension, and not easily to be imposed upon? After all, to return to the Words *began the War*. If the Colonel had proved that the Rector was wrong in applying such Words to him and his Brother Writer, instead of proving thereby the Rector to be void of Truth and Ingenuity, he would alas have proved no more than that he had been mistaken in the Meaning of one terrible Monosyllable. There is a Wag

at my Elbow, who delights in low Humour ; and having often observed that the most violent Disputes end in jangling about who was the Aggressor, begs that I will insert here his Description of a Controversy which took this Turn, and I cannot resist his Importunities.

The CONTROVERSY.

One Morn a mild and inoffensive Cat
Upon a funny Step unthinking sat.
Comes by a Mastiff, who in wanton Sport,
To show his Power, without a warning Snort,
Fetches to seize the Cat a sudden Bound,
Gives her a Shake and throws her on the Ground.
The Cat resents such Treatment from a Stranger,
Which Half of her nine Lives had put in Danger.
Sets up her Back, unsheathes her pointed Claws,
And bloody Currents from his Nostrils draws.
To it they fall. For feeble Puffs, although
She knew the mighty Vigour of her Foe,
Hopes by Plurality of Lives at Length
To be a Match for his superiour Strength.

Their several Talents while they both dilplay,
A Crowd is gather'd round to view the Fray.
One of the Crowd, tho' lost her trodden Hat,
Forces her Way, and cries my Cat! my Cat!
Your Cat's right serv'd, if she a Tartar catch,
By meddling with a Dog above her Match,
Bellows a Butcher. For depend upon't
She was the Giver of the first Affront.
Beyond just Bounds my Mastiff never starts.
There's not one so polite in all the Parts.
I will maintain it with this Club of Oak,
The Peace was never by the Mastiff broke.

This from the Crowd obtains applauding Cries,
'Til stouter than the Butcher one replies:
Your Dog and you ! how peaceably you dwell
Your Castles in, the Neighbourhood can tell.
And for this Broil, the Cat is all in Fault,
I know; for I beheld the first Assault.

And better since no Mortal living can,
 I'll tell you fairly how the *War began*.
 The Mastiff, unprovok'd, his Fury pour'd.
 The Cat unwilling was to be devour'd.
 Which was *perverse* in her, and did not suit
 With the sweet Temper of the lordly Brute.
 Her all ador'd Superiour to oblige,
 She should for certain not have stood a Siege ;
 But have surrender'd to be torn and rent,
 Happy to give his Sultanship Content.
 When romping Spirits put him in the Mood
 To dust her Jacket and to drink her Blood :
 Setting no further Value on her Fur,
 Nor wishing to enjoy another Pur,
 She should have sacrific'd her fleeting Breath,
 And thankfully embrac'd an envied Death.
 Yet she has had a Handling pretty rough,
 And for her *Contumacy* paid enough.
 So pull your Dog off, ere the Puss be worried,
 Unless you choose to be yourself well curried.

His Over-Match the Butcher springs to meet ;
 But soon, by Blows persuaded, turns discreet.
 Yet, having breath'd a While to ease his Pain,
 Perceives his Rage and Valour come again.
 He takes another and another Bout,
 With like Success. At last he gives it out.
 Remembers he has but a single Life
 Him to support against unequal Strife.
 Thinks such a Risk too high for empty Praise,
 And whistling *Captain* off with Scowls obeys.
 Flying before a thousand Flouts and Jeers,
 The loving Pair retire, with hanging Ears ;
 Wisely to chew, since Fortune jilts the Great,
 In silent Gloom, the Cud of a Defeat.

Thus poor Grimalkin was at last releas'd,
 And all the Hurly Burly quickly ceas'd.

The Colonel proceeds (P. 10) “ Don't think Gentlemen of the Clergy, said
 “ the Colonel, breaking out into a Rhapsody” (a Rhapsody indeed !) “ upon
 “ repeating the Word Brethren, don't think that you all have the Honour of being

"Brethren to this ever to be reverenced Rector." This I take to be a very high Compliment to the Rector: And, if it was not designed him, so much the better. The Colonel here labours to show that the Rector is not prejudiced in Favour of Men of the same Calling and Profession, but picks his particular Friends and Brethren indifferently out of the Clergy and Laity, according as they appear to him to be Men of Merit, well disposed towards private Property and Justice, and therefore true Lovers of their Country. Observe Reader this Encomium on the Rector comes not from himself, but from another Hand, that cannot be suspected of Partiality to his Reverence.

The Colonel (P. 11) endeavours to prove that the Rector was not properly appointed an Agent for the Convention of the Clergy; and consequently, I suppose, that any Affronts given him in and for his Agency were no Affronts to his Principals, the Convention of the Clergy. His Arguments (for so we must call them) are that only five and twenty of the Clergy appeared at the Convention, and no more than fifteen voted for the Agency; neither of which Assertions are true, as may appear by consulting the Clergy who were present, and the Book in which their Names are registered, though it must be owned the Catalogue is not such a tedious List of Names as that which contains the Number of Tithables in the Rector's Parish. There is a Mistake in one of the above Assertions of about five and twenty *per Cent.* in the other of about an hundred *per Cent.* The Truth differs from one of them as much as Sterling from Currency, when Exchange is at Par; and from the other, more than Sterling from Currency, at the present Height of Exchange. But the Colonel is sadly puzzled to conceive how the absent Clergy could fend Excuses for the Want of their Appearances, and their Concurrence with the Measure proposed. How should it be otherwise, except he would get himself thoroughly awake? If ever such an odd Turn of Affairs should happen, he need only apply to the Rector of his own Parish for Information, who was one that sent his Concurrence with the Measure proposed, and the generous Offer of a handsome Subscription into the Bargain. Besides the Colonel, in a more healthy Condition of Body or Mind, would no Doubt have considered that there was a second Convention, under the regular Summons of the Bishop's Commissary, while the Rector was in *England*; which not only confirmed what was done by the former, in fulfilling old Engagements, but was also pleased to thank the Agent for his Conduct in the Business he had undertaken. These Observations apart. What signifies all his Quibbling on this Head, except he would tell us how many he will have to be necessary for making a Convention, and how large a Majority of this Convention would satisfy him for settling any Point that comes before them, since he knows very well that all the Members are not necessary to make either a House of Commons or a House of Burgesses qualified for entering on Business, and that the bare Majority of one was once sufficient for carrying a Twopenny Act? Finally, it is to be noted that though

the Colonel will not suffer twenty five (according to his own false Account) to stand for a Convention of the Clergy, yet he can let as small a Number for any Thing that appears to the contrary pass for the whole People of *Virginia*. For behold, speaking of a Petition for the last Twopenny Act (P. 8) he says "The People represented." The Truth is, some People represented, as the Colonel says; some People refused to set their Hands to any Thing so unjust; some People made an opposite Representation; and the greatest Number of People standing neuter, represented neither for nor against. But it seems no People, but those who represented in Behalf of so reasonable, just, necessary, and (heretofore) charitable an Act, deserve to be ranked by the Colonel among those whom he styles "The People." This puts me in Mind of a Passage in *F. J. D'Orleans*. "It is reported," says the Jesuit, "that when he appeared there, and they read his Impeachment, in the Name of the People of *England*, Fairfax's Wife, who was in a Gallery, stood up, and interrupting the Clerk who read, cried out, *It is a Lie, scarce the tenth Part of the People of England have any Hand in this Crime, which is brought about by the Contrivance of the Traitor Cromwell, who is there.* The Lady's Courage was equally admired with the Temper of the Tyrant, who, without the least Notice taken of that Reproach, went on with what he had in Hand."

Ech. Tranflat.

The Colonel proceeds (P. 12) "Which I suppose are by this Time transmitted to *Graham Frank*." What ails the Colonel now? What Hobgoblins are spreading Terrors through his haunted and hag-ridden Imagination? Would he have the Rector to have no Friend on the Face of the Globe? I know of no Difference between the Rector's sending what he pleases to *Graham Frank*, and the Colonel's doing the like to Cousin *Bland*, except that *Graham Frank* has yet received no pecuniary Consideration; and Cousin *Bland*, if Report may be believed, has been allowed fifty Pounds Sterling for his Services.

The Colonel enters (P. 10) upon the Defence of the three first Twopenny Acts. To understand this Matter rightly, we are obliged to go back to his first Pamphlet. In that (P. 18) he makes clear, strong, and striking Concessions, in the following Words, which are spoken of the Governour and Council: "And though they should deviate from the strict Letter of an Instruction, or perhaps in a small Degree from the fixed Rule of the Constitution,"—"the Royal Instructions ought certainly to be obeyed, and nothing but the most pressing Necessity can justify any Person for infringing them." Here we are told in as plain and full a Manner as can be expected from an Adversary in the Dispute, that to pass Twopenny Acts without a suspending Clause is a Deviation from the fixed Rule of the Constitution, which nothing can justify but the most pressing Necessity. Arguing upon these Premises kindly laid down by the Colonel, the Rector called upon him to justify the first Twopenny Act, and two others,

that is, to shew a most pressing Necessity for their being passed without a suspending Clause ; and now to answer this Challenge the Colonel omits nothing in Defence of the said A&ts but the one Thing necessary, viz. the most pressing Necessity for passing them without a suspending Clause. Indeed he tells us further on (P. 17) that the Rector is perpetually ringing Changes on an A&t with and an A&t without a suspending Clause : Which Changes I conclude the Rector has not rung often enough, however harsh and disagreeably they may sound in the Ears of the Colonel ; since he can still forget this suspending Clause, when in Reason and Argumentation it ought to be the sole Object of his meditating Powers.

The Colonel (P. 14) speaking of the Legislature, and allowing their Fallibility as being Men, adds, " But is this Fallibility to be imputed to them as a Crime ?" Where has the Rector, or the late Bishop of *London* (for the Colonel will have a Letter of the latter to be written by the former, without the least Shadow of Proof or Probability) imputed Fallibility as a Crime not to the Legislature (which Expression, if I mistake not, includes the King, and, if it be used emphatically, peradventure the Parliament of *Great Britain*) but to any Branch of the Legislature ? If the Colonel's Disorder will not permit him to distinguish between pointing out some Miscarriages (in Hope of Rectification) of those who are confessed on both Hands to be Men, and blaming them for being liable to Error ; between condemning them for having the Nature of Men, and finding Fault with them for taking too little Care to obviate the worst Propensities of this weak Nature ; he is clearly entitled to the Reader's and every humane Person's Compassion. The Colonel goes on to declaim on the Rector's supposed Disrespect to the Legislature, the grand Foundation of which Charge I take to be contained in the following Words : " And is it decent for a Clergyman to treat Members of the " General Assembly for offering a just Defence against so aggravated a Charge " with a Language not to be found but among those who have prostituted " themselves to the lowest Degrees and Sediments of Scurrility ?" *Hunc illæ Laerymæ.* We stand here on a slippery Spot. In the first Place, not to observe that if the Rector has said any Thing which ill becomes a Clergyman, the Colonel has said what as little becomes a Half-Clergyman, it must be conceded to the Colonel that he knows best on what Dunhill the worst Language which I think the Rector uses against the two Members of Assembly, his Adversaries in the present Dispute, was originally found, as the Rector borrowed it from the Colonel's primitive Piece in the present Altercation. In the next Place, I only venture so far to apologize for the Rector as to say, that in my humble Opinion, he never imagined that either of his respectable Opponents, when turned Pamphlet Writers, would in the Course of their Authorship claim their Privilege as Members of Assembly. Had such a Notion ever entered into his Apprehension, to be sure he would not have engaged at such a Disadvantage ; as he might, without

any Impeachment of his Courage or Honour, have declined accepting a Challenge from Men who demanded not only to be two against one, but also to stand upon higher Ground, and to be armed with a longer Weapon than their Antagonist: But such an unequal Combat he supposed could never be admitted, or thought of, in that freest of all Commonwealths, the Republick of Letters.

Says the Colonel to himself, " You have charged him (the Rector) with a Neglect of Duty in his Parish, which is one of the most palpable, barefaced, and impudent Falsehoods that ever was invented." Turn if you please, Reader, to the Colonel's Letter in his Appendix; where you will find the Words made Use of by the Colonel are, " But the Rector of Yark-Hampton hath deserted his Parish, and is scarce ever in it to perform the Duties of his Office," which I cannot but think is something more than charging the Rector in general Terms with a Neglect of Duty in his Parish. The Colonel goes on, by Way of mending his Behaviour, to declaim on the Supposition that the Rector neglects the Duty of his Parish; but then, in the Midst of this Declamation (P. 15) he says, " If I have accused him with a Neglect of Duty in his Parish, and can be convinced that this Accusation is unjust, in that Case I have done him an Injury, and will not only ask his Forgiveness of my Offence, but make an Atonement for it," that is, when the Colonel accuses any Person he does not look upon it as incumbent on the Accuser to specify the Fact or prove the Person accused to be guilty, but modestly desires that Person to think it incumbent on him to prove himself not guilty. I hope this is not the Method of Trial in the Court where the Colonel sits Judge; if it be, the Rector I dare say would be very sorry to be tried in that Court; or if tried and condemned there, would undoubtedly appeal. Assuredly the Colonel sets too great a Price on his asking Forgiveness, and making Atonement, when he imposes it as a Condition of the Rector's receiving such Favours that the Rector shall convince the Colonel of his own Innocence as to any Crime of which the Colonel has a Mind to accuse him. The Colonel, speaking of the Term Duty, says, " It is you know, Sir, according to his own Definition of it, a complex Term." The Rector had called the Term Duty a complex Term. This the Colonel, according to his usual Precision, calls the Rector's giving a Definition of the Term Duty, which is no more a Definition of the Term Duty than of any other complex Term whatever. O Logick ! Logick ! what dost thou suffer from the depopulating Inroads of Drowsiness into thy Territories !

The Colonel proceeds in the Dialogue with himself, or, which is the same Thing, between himself and Ned the Barber: " But Colonel, said I, I have studied to find out what Connexion there could be between his Reverence's Neglect of Duty in his Parish, and the Dispute about the Twopenny Act. Exactly as much, Sir, replied the Colonel, as there is between my officiating

" as a Clergyman in the Churches of the Parish where I live and a Dispute relating to the Power of the General Assembly to enact Laws; which is all the Reply I shall make to his Windmill and Giant, and his other Quixotisms." The Dispute here mentioned is not about the Power of the General Assembly to enact Laws, but a different Matter; namely, whether an Act passed by the General Assembly and the Governour, without a suspending Clause, and in allowed Opposition to Royal Instructions, as well as contrary to Justice, and the Subject's Right to private Property, shall take Place of an Act passed by the General Assembly, and the Governour, and the King, and confessed by both Sides to be Law. But observe the Prettiness of the Colonel's Reasoning in this Passage. He had stepped aside from the Dispute to display his Learning about Kings of *Babylon* and *Romish* Inquisitors, and what not. The Rector, as an Answerer, was obliged to follow him against his Will into these Digressions. And now the Colonel pleads the Rector's, that is, when searched to the Bottom, his own Example, for still departing from the Matter in Dispute.

The Colonel begins (Page 16th) with these Words: " I do not, answered the Colonel, but I officiate sometimes as Reader in the Church which I frequent, in the Absence of the Minister, being thereto appointed by the Vestry. My Motive for accepting this Appointment, I presume, the Rector has no Right to inquire into, since it was not from any pecuniary Consideration." The Rector is very indifferent about the Colonel's Motive for accepting this Appointment. He instanced this Employment of the Colonel's as a Proof against him that we are in no Danger of Archbishop *Laud*'s Hierarchy. If by Laws on this Side of the Water the Vestries are empowered to appoint Lay-Readers of the Common Prayer in the Absence of Ministers, it is a good Proof that we are in no Danger of Archbishop *Laud*'s Hierarchy. But there is yet no Act for their appointing Lay-Preachers, the Law of *Virginia* declaring that a Clerk or Reader shall not expound the Scriptures. And since the Colonel officiates in both Capacities without any pecuniary Consideration, which those Clergy who have nothing to live by but their Office cannot afford to do, I think the Colonel's Vestry can do no less in Gratitude than give him for his Works of Supererogation the Benefit of any good Job to be had upon the Glebe, or their Votes at the next Election.

The Colonel goes on. " But I shall always consider it as an Affront to the Throne, which under our present illustrious Race of Kings has been eminently distinguished for Truth and Justice, to approach it with a Petition loaded with Calumny and Abuse against the King's Substitute, and every other Part of the Legislature of the Colony." Except the King, should at least have been added. These are very hard Words, tolerable only in a Declamation, or as the Colonel says, a Rhapsody, upon a Petition which the late King did not consider as any

Affront to the Throne, and which the Colonel does not appear ever to have seen, as he quotes not a single Syllable from it to support so severe a Censure. I suspect he here makes Use of that Legerdemain with which he charges the Rector, and endeavours to pass the Bishop of *London's* Letter to the Lords of Trade upon his Readers for the Clergy's Petition to the King, which was composed here in *Virginia* by the Clergy who met in Convention, and presented to his late Majesty without any Alteration some Time before the Bishop of *London's* Letter was written; for this Petition was the first Step, and that which brought the Affair before the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations.

The Colonel (P. 16 and 17) has a word-catching Stroke at a Petition about which enough has been said already. He has (P. 18) these Words: " It is " extremely obvious that the Rector's Temper inclines him to inflame his own " Resentment into a fixed Contempt of the General Assembly, otherwise he could " not have approved of the Conduct of the Author of this Petition, if what he " says of him is true, that he did not prefer the Petition from any Imagination " that there was Room to expect Success in it, but to evince the contrary by " Experiment: So that the General Assembly may be used by designing Men " as Instruments to carry on their deep laid Stratagems and Machinations, on " Purpose to afford Matter of Pleasantry to the Rector." The mighty Busines which here seems to grieve the Colonel so much is only this: The late Mr. *Stith*, from what Encouragement I know not, endeavoured to persuade some of the Clergy that, by desiring to exchange the present Establishment for one in Money, they might obtain from the Assembly a better Income in Point of real Value. One of these Clergymen, suspecting that this Scheme concealed a Snake in the Grass, put a Petition, carefully expressed, by Help of good Advice, in proper Terms of Respect, into the House of Burgesses, and thereby directly asks a better Provision; not imagining that this Petition would succeed, but, as the Matter turned out, that it would serve to open the Eyes of his Brethren. Long after all this, the Rector having Occasion given him to write about this Petition by the Colonel, sneeringly calls it a Machination and a Stratagem; for the Machination and the Stratagem, if there were any, lay quite on the other Side. The Petition was fair and open. Besides this, the Rector treats it as a Matter of Pleasantry to observe the Colonel's Mistakes, whether real or affected, about this Petition; with the true Design of which he appeared to be unacquainted. Now what is there in all this to show that the Author of the Petition had any Contempt of the then House of Burgesses, or that the Rector has since a fixed Contempt of the General Assembly? How very aggravating, how extremely sour, not to say dangerous, the Colonel's Disorder makes him grow, whenever he touches upon the Subject of Respect!

Says the Colonel (P. 18)—“ for if an Advertisement in the *Virginia Gazette*,
 “ signed by him and two or three others, was of sufficient Authority, in the late
 “ Commissary’s Time, to convene the Clergy”—this Advertisement did not
 pretend to convene the Clergy by Authority. The Rector solely, I think, may,
 when he pleases, invite as many of the Clergy or the Laity as he will to dine
 with him; and if he does not like to be at the Trouble of sending particular
 Cards to each, may once for all put the Invitation in the *Gazette*. Nothing is
 more common than Things of this Kind in the *English* weekly Papers, and daily
 Advertisers. Yet, having first laid down this Foundation that the advertising
 Clergy assumed some Authority and Power over their Brethren, which they had
 no Design of doing, nor did do, the Colonel goes on to justify the Proceeding
 of the late Governour respecting this Affair. For why the Governour knew, the
 Commissary knew, and many People knew, and believed, as how that there
 was a Cabal, and a Meeting, on Purpose to make Disturbances in the Govern-
 ment, and to form Stratagems and Machinations against the Administration and
 the Legislature of the Colony, which this Brother was to solicit in *England*. An
 excellent Plot this to solicit Disturbances of the Government of *Virginia* in *Eng-*
land! What a Pity it is that the Colonel did not live in the Times when Plots
 were fashionable, and the Discovery of them rewarded! He would have displayed
 a fine Nose in scenting them out. For such Reasons as the above, the Colonel
 is sorry no Doubt that the advertising Clergy were not punished by the Grand
 Jury, without either Law or Evidence, for their wicked Advertisement. Well,
 all I can say is, that if this be the Colonel’s Love of Liberty and his Country, I
 boast myself void of them both. For my Part, I think that Grand Juryman
 behaved in a Manner agreeable to the Spirit of Liberty, and like a true *Briton*,
 who, as I have been told, asked what penal Law the Clergy had transgressed;
 and on observing a Silence, whether it was not one that forbids five black Slaves
 to be seen together? I have often drank this Gentleman’s Health, though I
 know not who he was; and with the Colonel’s Permission I will continue so to
 do, except I should hear of his Death, and then I will drink to his Memory.

The Colonel proceeds (P. 19) “ As to the Prohibition the Rector received
 “ from appearing at the present Governour’s Palace, his affrontive and disres-
 “ pectful Behaviour was the Occasion of it; for, as I have been informed, that,
 “ contrary to his Duty, and the Respect due to the King’s Representative, he
 “ did not wait on the Governour with the Royal Disallowance of several Acts of
 “ Assembly, with which he was charged by the Lords of Trade, until several
 “ Weeks after his Arrival in the Country, though he was in the Place of the
 “ Governour’s Residence; and when he did wait on him he delivered the Des-
 “ patches opened, after he had communicated it to such of his Brethren as he:

"thought proper." What a pretty Collection of Falsehoods is here strung together by this Friend and Admirer of Truth! What confident Assertions of Facts, some of which it is plain he could not know to be true, and others which he might, if he had pleased, have known to be utterly false! The Rector had not the Honour, that he knows of, to be charged with any Despatches or Commands by the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, to be either a King's Messenger or one from the Lords of Trade. He knew not that he was bringing any News to the Governour, or that the Papers which he brought required any immoderate Speed. He obtained them for the Security and Benefit of his Principals, the Clergy. In delivering them as he did, he acted by the Advice of a Person whom he heard very highly complimented on his Skill and Knowledge in Plantation Affairs by the Earl of Granville, late President of the Most Honourable the Privy Council. However, if he could have foreseen how ill his Delivery of them to the Governour would have been received, he would probably have insisted on an Opportunity of delivering them to his Principals, a Convention of the Clergy, for them to have disposed of them as they should have thought proper. He was reproved, I have heard, for calling on a Friend at whose Door he landed before he waited on the Governour, at a considerable Distance. He landed about Sunset under an ill Habit of Body. He was not able to take a Journey without some Preparation and Refreshment, after crossing the Atlantick Ocean. Had he jumped upon the first Horse he could obtain, and rid Post to the Governour's House, as it was late on Friday when he landed, he could not probably have been able to do any Busines at the Governour's House until Monday. To expect, in such Circumstances, that the Governour's House should be the first that he entered, was demanding of him what he would not expect from one of those Negroes to whom the Care of repelling any future Approach of his to the Governour's House was committed, nor from a Negro of his own, was he Owner of any. Had he moved with the Velocity which he has been so often blamed for not moving with, he might with more Appearance of Reason have been condemned for an indecent Haste to triumph in his Success. So that, in his Circumstances, it was impossible to avoid Censure. He arrived on Friday the 20th of June 1760 in the Evening at Hampton, as can be testified by his fellow Passengers; and he was at the Governour's House on the Friday following, June 27th, 1760, in the Morning, as appears from a Deposition taken next Day before the Mayor of Williamsburg. The intervening Space, which is some Hours short of one complete Week, is the Colonel's several Weeks; and by his Account Hampton, or some Part of the Ocean, is the Place of the Governour's Residence: For the Rector was but one Night in Williamsburg, which he entered late in the Afternoon, before he waited on the Governour. As to the Papers being delivered opened, they were not delivered *opened*, but *open*. They were never enclosed, except in a Tin Box, prepared by the Rector for the Purpose of keeping them clean; and he did not think it decent to make a Present

of this Tin Box to the King's Representative. Now is it not a Piece of Charity to suppose that the Colonel, when in the full Possession of his Reason, must know the Difference between *opened* and *open*; that he does not think slightly at such Times of breaking a Seal, however common the Practice may be; and that he would not have brought so black a Charge against any Man, when it was possible, for ought he knew to the contrary, that it might be entirely false, had he been thoroughly awake. For my Part, whenever I read this Passage, I cannot help imagining that I hear the Writer snore aloud; and see his Head, born down with an intolerable Weight of Sleep, come thump upon the Table, with such a thundering Noise, as to bring a Crowd of Domesticks round him, under a terrible Apprehension of their Master's having gone off in an Apoplexy. If I could suppose the Colonel to have been in any State less torpid about the Time of his writing the above Passage, I should think it no Injustice to say that he is so enamoured with the Charms of Falsehood, and so happy in her good Graces and Assistance, on every Occasion, when at a Default for Want of something to say, as to render it very difficult to determine which of these reciprocal Admirers loves the other with the most passionate Emotions. My Consideration for the deplorable Condition into which the Colonel seems to have fallen will not permit me to use such plain and furious Language in Behalf of my Employer or Client as the celebrated *John Dryden* discharges, when clearing himself of certain grievous Aspersions, in his Vindication of the Duke of Guise; for the calumniated Poet, after mentioning some false Facts that had been laid to his Charge, immediately adds, *Now here are three damn'd Lies crowded together into a very little Room.*

Hear the Colonel. " And as to his missing the President's Place at the College, his contumacious Treatment of the Visitors Authority, which is so publickly known"—The direct contrary of this confident Assertion is publickly known among those who do not measure the Value of lawful Authority by its Situation in the Map, but think no worse of it for residing on this or that Side of the Atlantick. The Colonel again. " Could not entitle him to their Favours, even admitting that he was qualified in other Respects." The Rector I believe will make no Difficulty of owning himself unqualified in the most necessary Respect, without which other Qualifications can avail nothing, that of swearing Obedience to arbitrary Will and despotic Power, and thereby consenting to endure the most abject Slavery. *Nullius addictus jurare in Verba Magistri.*

" The Rector's Patriotism, answered the Colonel (P. 20) is as conspicuous as his Modesty and Politeness; but it is really Matter of Pleasantry, as this Thersites said of the famous Petition, to hear him haranguing about the Constitution, which, if he knows any Thing of, he does not care to make it publick." Poor Rector! If he deliver himself with the Freedom and Boldness becoming a Briton, it is Impudence; if he confess a Sense of Inability and Igno-

rance, it is no Mark of Modesty, but purely a Discredit to his Understanding, or a Proof that he has something to reserve which he dare not venture into the Light.

Having derided the Rector's Ignorance or Pusillanimity in not undertaking to be too positive or explicit concerning constitutional Points, the Colonel, that he may show us how easy a Matter it is thoroughly to discuss such Points, applies himself to ascertain and define them with all imaginable Boldness and Assurance. What he has delivered on this Head I am now to examine, so far as it relates to the Twopenny Act. As to any Thing further, I leave it to be disputed between the Colonel and the *British* Parliament, or rather between him and the excellent Author of a Pamphlet entitled The Regulations of the Colonies, &c. I shall only say, with Regard to this Point, which I conceive to be out of my Road at present, that according to my Ideas the Colonel has furnished us with a very curious political and paradoxical Contrast in contending for no Power in the King and Parliament of Great Britain to lay a Tax on British Subjects for the Support of Government and general Utility, and yet for Power in the Governour and Assembly to take their Property from some *British* Subjects purely for the Sake of bestowing Favours on other *British* Subjects. That I may proceed methodically, and in Imitation of the Rector's despicable Ignorance and Faint-Heartedness, not by Way of trying how to erect a new or subvert an old Constitution, but only to pull down if it may be the Constitution built by the Colonel, so far as it stands in our Way, it is necessary that we take a short View of the real Nature and State of the Dispute between the Colonel and the Rector. If I mistake not, their Dispute is contained in these three Questions.

Whether an Act glaringly unjust can have the Validity of Law in an *English* or free Government?

Whether on Revolution Principles an Act passed by a whole Legislature can be suspended or dispensed with by a Part of that Legislature?

Whether an Act contrary to Royal Instructions, referred to as the Governour's Guide and Direction in his Commission, can have the Force of Law?

To support the Act under Consideration against the Clergy, all these Questions I apprehend must be determined in the Affirmative. Whereas less than this, if I mistake not, might be sufficient to support the same Act against the Merchants, totally unjust as it is with Respect to them, and quite subversive of the Foundations of Commerce. And yet an Order has been obtained for supporting it against the Clergy only, which I leave to be explained by any one who likes the Undertaking.

The Colonel, as we have seen above, sets out with maintaining the Act in Dispute to be a Deviation from the fixed Rule of the Constitution, and defensible by the most pressing Necessity alone. The Rector in Answer to this endeavoured to prove that the Act overturned the Foundations of Commerce, Property, the established Church, Justice, and free Government; and all this not so much to relieve the Poor, or Sufferers by any Calamity, as to assist the Rich and favour the Successful; and insisted that such an Act could not possibly be either salutary or useful to the Community, much less necessary. How does the Colonel behave under such a direct Rebuff? He acknowledges no Error in his first Plan of Operations, but silently whisks about to the opposite Quarter, and now undertakes to prove the Act, let its Nature and Tendency be what they will, entirely constitutional. And could he succeed in this new Attempt, what Thanks should we owe him for placing us under such a Constitution as a thinking Man might perhaps reasonably wish himself to be delivered from? But it is time to inquire into the Foundations of that Fabrick which the Colonel has been toiling with the Sweat of his Brows to erect.

" Under an *English* Government (P. 21) all Men are born free, are only subject to Laws made with their own Consent, and cannot be deprived of the Benefit of these Laws without a Transgression of them. To assert this is sufficient, to demonstrate it to an *Englishman* is useless: He not only knows, but, if I may use the Expression, feels it as a vital Principle in the Constitution, which places him in a Situation without the Reach of the highest executive Power in the State, if he lives in an Obedience to its Laws." This is the first Stone in the Colonel's Edifice. What a strange and enthusiastick Rant to be given for a Principle of Government! What a Deal of Paring this *Banbury* Cheese will require before you can come at any sound Part in it! " Under an *English Government* all *Men* are born free." Does the Colonel mean to affirm that *Virginia* is not an *English Government*, or that Negroes are not under it *born Slaves*, or that the said Slaves are not *Men*? Which ever of these confident Assertions he undertakes to maintain, and one of them he must maintain, he will find insuperable Difficulties to oppose him as soon as he is able to cast an Eye on the Situation of *Virginia* in the Map of *America*, or on the Condition and rational Conduct of his own Domesticks. " Are only subject to Laws made with their own Consent, and cannot be deprived of the Benefit of these Laws without a Transgression of them." It is very strange either that the landed Man, the Merchant, or the Parson, should give their own Consent to be divested of their Property, for no publick Utility; or that unseasonable Weather should be imputed to them for a Transgression. But admitting that the landed Man, the Merchant, and the Clergyman, have virtually given their own Consent by their Provincial Representatives, the Royal Assent is still wanting to make the Two-

penny Act a Law; unless that can be supposed to be given to an Act which is both contrary to the King's Instructions to his Goverour, and also disallowed by the King as soon as it comes to his Knowledge. " To assert this is sufficient, " to demonstrate it to an *Englishman* is useless: He not only knows, but, if I may use the Expression, *feels* it as a vital Principle in the Constitution, which places him in a Situation without the Reach of the highest executive Power in the State, if he lives in an Obedience to its Law." Here the Colonel has provided excellent Consolation for the landed Man deprived of the Rents of his Estate to which he has a fundamental Right, for the Merchant hindered from taking the Benefit of a fair Contract according to the Rights of Commerce, and for the Parson dispossessed of his legal Dues by the *executive Power* of the *Collector*. Such Sufferers are directed not to credit their outward Senses, which are very apt to deceive those who trust in them, but to retire inwards and *feel* themselves *born free*, living under Laws made by their *own Consent*, and not to be deprived of the Benefit of these Laws so long as they live in Obedience to them. Surely if the Colonel meant any Thing by this his first Principle of Government, it must be that Justice, Liberty, and Property, are the Life of an *English Government*. It may not therefore be amiss to refer the Reader to the first of these three Questions in which I think is contained the Foundation of the present Dispute, and desire him to consider with himself how the Matter stands between the Colonel and the Rector.

" If then (P. 22) the People of this Colony are free born, and have a Right to the Liberties and Privileges of *English Subjects*, they must necessarily have a legal Constitution, that is a Legislature, composed in Part of the Representatives of the People, who may enact Laws for the internal Government of the Colony, and suitable to its various Circumstances and Occasions; and without such a Representative, I am bold enough to say no Law can be made." The Colonel is bold enough to say, in the very same Page, what Laws not consented to by the Provincial Representatives here mentioned are nevertheless to be obeyed. However, this is none of my Business at present. The Clergy do not demand their Dues upon a Law solely made by the King, as the Colonel would have it thought, but upon a Law passed by the Representatives of the People of the Colony, and confirmed by the Crown; contending that such a Law cannot be dispensed with, or suspended, by less Authority than that which conspired in its Production. See the second Question.

" From these Principles (P. 23) which I take to be incontrovertible, as they are deduced from the Nature of the *English Constitution*, it is evident that the Legislature of the Colony have a Right to enact any Law they shall think necessary for their internal Government." I suppose the Colonel means here by the Legislature of the Colony the Goverour and Assembly, without including

the King. And if he means by any Law any just and reasonable Law, not contrary to the Laws of *England*, not interfering with a Provincial Law that has obtained the Royal Assent, or if so interfering, restrained by a suspending Clause, what he says is granted: But if by any Law he means any unjust and unreasonable Law, contrary to the Laws of *England*, or to the plain and most undoubted Maxims of free Government, or interfering with the Royal Assent, and without a suspending Clause, it is denied. For such an extensive and extravagant Power as this does not appear, from any Thing the Colonel is able to produce, to be included in the General Power to enact Laws. Nor is such a Power in the one Instance of passing a Law, which shall interfere with any one that has received the Royal Assent, consistent with a Petition preferred some Time since by the Assembly and rejected by the Privy Council.

" But lest these Principles, plain and evident as they are, should be controverted by the Rector, or some other of Sir *Robert Filmer's* Disciples, who perhaps may assert that the King by his Prerogative can establish any Form of Government he pleases in the Colony, I will examine the Power the General Assembly derives by Grants from the Crown, abstracted from the original Rights of the People." This Sir *Robert Filmer*, if I mistake not, is one who stood up for arbitrary Government and dispensing Powers; and therefore the Colonel should, by all Means, have treated him as a Friend and Fellow Labourer in the same Cause. He is one whom *Algernon Sydney* sticks not to call a Rascal. So far did that learned Writer's Zeal for Liberty and Property lead him to make Use of scurrilous Terms against his Adversary; not bearing I suppose to sacrifice the Rights of free Subjects to smooth good Nature, or to offer them up as Incense, wherewith to gratify the delicate Nostrils of Politeness. The Rector in the present Dispute appears to have had continually before his Eyes such Maxims as the following: *Sanctio recta, iubens honesta, prohibens contraria. Cic. A just Sanction, commanding Things good, and forbidding the Contrary. Quod ab Initio injustum est, nullum potest habere Juris effectum.* (*Grat. de Jur. Bel. & Pac. L. 3.*) That which is unjust in the Beginning, can never have the Effect of Justice. Whether such Tenets as these be most agreeable to the Doctrine of *Filmer* or of *Sydney*, I leave to the Colonel himself to consider and determine; provided that he will pick out an unclouded sunshiny Morning, when he is fasting, or at least before he has drank any considerable Quantity of Poppy Juice, for that Employment.

The Colonel formally enters on a Proof that the General Assembly have a Power to enact Laws by Grants from the Crown, a Thing not in Dispute. But in this Account he cunningly omits such Provisos in those Grants as the following: " So always as the said Statutes, Ordinances, and Proceedings, as near as conveniently may be, be agreeable to the Laws, Statutes, Government, and

“ Policy of this our Realm of *England*. ” If he thought these Provisos would spoil his Proof, so far as it concerns the present Dispute, to be sure he was in the Right to leave them to be dragged into the Light by his Adversary. But this however is paring away the sound Part of the *Banbury Cheese*. With Respect to these Provisos, some contend that the Enactors of the Laws are also the sole Judges, whether they be agreeable to the Laws of *England*, to Reason and Justice; by which they explain the Provisos quite away, and leave them no Kind of Meaning. Besides, it is reckoned a Happiness in the *British* Constitution that those who make the Laws, and those who judge what is Law, should be different Persons. It is further remarkable that the Charter from the Company in *England*, which Mr. *Stith* contends to be in Force after the Dissolution of the Company who granted it, and which Mr. *Stith* and the Colonel seem chiefly to refer those to who would examine into the Constitution of *Virginia*, concludes in this Manner: “ Provided, that no Law, or Ordinance, made in the said General Assembly, shall be or continue in Force or Validity unless the same shall be solemnly ratified and confirmed in a general Quarter Court of the said Company here in *England*, and so ratified, be returned to them under our Seal; it being our Intent to afford the like Measure also unto the said Colony, that after the Government of the said Colony shall once have been well framed, and settled accordingly, which is to be done by us, as by Authority derived from his Majesty, and the same shall have been so by us declared, no Orders of Court afterwards shall bind the said Colony, unless they be ratified in like Manner in the General Assemblies.” So far were the Company from aiming to erect the Colony into a separate Dominion, with a complete and supreme Legislature on the Spot within itself, or imagining that it would thrive better as an independent Kingdom or Electorate, under the same Head with *Britain*, than by being a Part of the great Whole under the King and Parliament of *Britain*, and thereby entitled to Protection, and all the Rights and Privileges of *British* Subjects.

“ He therefore (P. 25) gives Power by Commission under his Great Seal to his Governour to give his Assent; which, to speak in the Language of the Law, is in this Case a *testē meipso*, and gives Life and Being to the Laws in the same Manner as if he was present in his Royal Person.” — “ The King frequently gives his Assent to Acts of Parliament by Commission to Persons appointed for that Purpose. He does the same Thing by his Commission to the Governour, who thereby becomes the King’s Representative in his legislative Character; so that the Governour’s Assent to Laws here, is, in Effect, the King’s Assent.” The Colonel affects to call his Honour the Lieutenant Governour the King’s Substitute and Representative: He may be so, for what I know: I am so far from aiming to controvert these Titles, conferred by the Colonel, that he may add to them Lord-Lieutenant and Viceroy if he pleases. I contend not about Names, and Titles of Honour, provided they be not made

Use of for exalting the Power of the Substitute and Representative to the Diminution of that of the Sovereign ; which the Colonel knows would be too like an old Affair, with the particular Mention of which I will not affront the Colonel's Reading. At the first Sight of the above Passages, I was in Pain for the Arguments used by the Clergy on the second Question in the Dispute ; but, running in a Fright to the Twopenny Act, I found it to my great Comfort worded after the usual Form of, Be it enacted by the *Lieutenant Governour, &c.* This Form in our Laws I think the Colonel should by all Means procure to be changed, as soon as possible. I will give one Argument, which appears to me a full Proof that his Honour the Lieutenant Governour is not empowered to give the King's Assent, but only that of the Lieutenant Governour : The Colonel and every Body allows that after the Governour has passed an Act, it may be repealed by the King alone ; but if the King's Assent was once given, whether by Commission or by the Royal Presence, to any Act, it could not be repealed by the King alone, but to repeal it would require the Concurrence of all the Branches of the Legislature concerned in passing it. For if one Branch could repeal what had been assented to by the Whole, that Branch would be possessed of a dispensing Power, which Revolution Principles do not allow. If the Governour can give the King's Assent to an Act, then the Governour and the General Assembly can repeal the Act of 1748, under which the Clergy claim their Dues, not only for one Year, but for ever. To avoid this Consequence the Colonel must say that this Act, after having had the Governour's Assent given to it, *which is in Effect the King's*, was sent home, as many other Acts are, for a second Royal Assent. Be it so. Then this second Royal Assent was either some additional Authority, or it was not. If it was, how does the suspending this Act by the Governour and Assembly alone agree with that uncontroverted Maxim of *Brit sh Government*, that an Act once passed cannot be dispensed with, or suspended, but by the whole Legislature which agreed together in passing it ? But if the second Royal Assent given by Majesty itself adds no Authority to any Act, what should hinder the Governour and Assembly from breaking in upon Rents of Lands, vacating Contracts, and withdrawing the Revenues of the Church, to serve private Ends, that is, to take Property from the Poor and transfer it to the Rich, from Sufferers to Gainers, by a supposed general Calamity, not only for one Year, but for any Number of Years, if they should think proper ? In short, the Colonel's Argument, view it in what Light you will, proves too much ; which, he must know very well, Logicians reckon to be full as bad as proving nothing at all. Besides, before the Colonel can make the passing of a Twopenny Act a parallel Instance with that of passing an Act of Parliament by Commission, he must produce a Case wherein it is set forth that the Persons commissioned passed the Act of Parliament contrary to their Commission, or at least contrary to Instructions

referred to in that Commission ; which, when he can do, I believe we may venture to profess that we will give up the whole Matter in Dispute.

" To say," says the Colonel (P. 26.) " that a Royal Instruction to a Governor for his own particular Conduct is to have the Force and Validity of a Law, and must be obeyed without Reserve, is at once to strip us of all the Rights and Privileges of *British Subjects*, and to put us under the despotic Power of a *French* or *Turkish* Government ; for what is the real Difference between a *French* Edict and an *English* Instruction, if they are both equally absolute ? The Royal Instructions are nothing more than Rules and Orders laid down as Guides and Directions for the Conduct of Governors. These may, and certainly ought to be, Laws to them ; but never can be thought, consistently with the Principles of the *British* Constitution, to have the Force and Power of Laws upon the People, which is evident from this plain Reason, " Promulgation is essential to the Nature of Laws." What Abundance of Self-Contradiction and loose Talk is here thrown together ! A Royal Instruction must not be obeyed without Reserve, yet it is a Law to the Governor, and consequently he must obey it without Reserve ; for this is the Colonel's own Account of the Nature of a Law. And indeed what Sort of a Law is that to the Person obliged by it, who may observe it, or let it alone, as he thinks proper ? But it is not a Law to the People : What signifies whether it be called a Law to the People or not, since it has its full Effect, if observed as a Law by the Governor ? Strictly speaking, it is perhaps not a Law to the People, but a Means to prevent their suffering by unjust Laws. But again it cannot be a Law to the People, for Want of Promulgation. The Instruction in Question, whatever others may be, was promulgated to the Clergy by the late Governor, and to the Assembly, as appears by their Petition before Twopenny Acts were in Being. What is the Difference, says the Colonel, between a *French* or *Turkish* Edict and an *English* Instruction, observed without Reserve by the Governor ? Ay marry, what think you ? Which is most like a *French* or *Turkish* Edict, an Act to make a Breach in the Walls of Property, lay an Embargo on the Rents of Lands, vacate Contracts, &c. or an Instruction to prevent such Acts ? The Colonel and the Rector, I find, are neither of them Friends to *French* or *Turkish* Edicts ; and there is only this Difference between them, that the Colonel's Objection lies solely against the Hands from which such Edicts come, but the Rector's against the Matter of such Edicts, let them come from what Hands they will ; from the Monarch on the Throne, those in Authority under him, or the Representatives of the People themselves.

" The King's Instructions (P. 27) then being only intended as Guides and Directions to Governors" (Laws which they certainly ought to observe it was but just now) " and not being obligatory upon the People, the Governors

" are only answerable for a Breach of them." — " Now I infer from these Instructions that, admitting the Governour should pass an Act contrary to them, he subjects himself to the Penalties inflicted on him for a Breach of his Instructions; but the Act so passed by him has the Obligation of a Law until the King's Disallowance of it." What a strange Turn of Affairs is here! Those who were disengaged by the Twopenny Act desire not that the Governour should suffer for passing it: Those who were obliged by it are generously ready and willing to make him the Sacrifice, while they themselves enjoy the Rewards of another's Punishment.

*fruitur Diis
Iratis: At tu Viatrix Provincia ploras.*

But then how will the Colonel reconcile this to his first Principle of the Constitution, if those who suffered by the Act must finally lose their Property, not by their own, but another Person's Transgression of a Law? Lastly, the Authority of the Twopenny Act is fairly founded by the Colonel in Transgression, which may be looked upon as a Counter-Part to that old Notion by which Dominion was founded in Grace; and perhaps these two seeming Extremes to each other may not be found so wide of one another, when nicely examined, as at first Sight they may appear.

— " For (P. 28) if such an Act is void *ab Initio*, the Instructions would be absurd; because to restrain the Governour from passing such an Act, which when passed is as absolutely void as if it had never existed, is absurd and useless." That is, it is absurd and useless for the King to secure the ordinary Subject from having his Property taken from him, which he must afterwards endeavour to recover, by wasting his Substance in tedious and expensive Law-suits.

— " Because the Governour is of Opinion that the Exigencies of the Colony make such an Act necessary." How does the Colonel know that this was ever the Reason with a Governour for passing a Twopenny Act? The late Governour (to go no further) told the Clergy that a Twopenny Act was contrary to common Justice and his Instructions; that nevertheless he must pass it, not in Pursuance of his own Judgment concerning the Exigencies of the Colony, but for *Fear of having the People upon his Back*; that is, I suppose, some of the Assembly, consisting of the Colonel and his Friends. The Rector I think has clearly proved that a Twopenny Act cannot possibly suit the Exigency of a short Crop, or be at all necessary; because it gives Advantage indifferently to the Sufferer and to the Gainer by Means of a short Crop, out of the Purses and at the Expense of private Persons, who have as good a Right to the Profits of their Estates and Contracts, &c. as any other private Persons.

" When Sir, answered the Colonel (P. 29) you can produce an Instance of
 " a Merchant, or any other Person, except the Rector, and two or three of his
 " Brethren, bringing Suits to try the Validity of an Act of the Legislature, I will
 " give you a Reason why the Merchants were not included in the Order of the
 " late Assembly." The Rector and his Brethren do not dispute the Validity of
 an Act of the Legislature, except the Colonel excludes the King from the Legis-
 lature. The Act of 1748, under which the Clergy claim, was an Act of the
 Legislature, including the King. The Twopenny Act of 1758 was not such an
 Act. When two Acts passed by such different Authority contradict each other,
 which does it become the Clergy to dispute the Validity of? What a pitiful Ex-
 cuse he has brought for the Particularity of the Order of a late Assembly, or House
 of Burgesses! Could they certainly tell whether any Body besides the Clergy would
 dispute the Validity of the Twopenny Act or not? Or, if they could, was it
 any more Trouble to extend the Support of the Act against all People concerned
 than to confine it to the Clergy alone? Would it not have looked with a better
 Face, would it not have discovered a greater Air of Propriety and Impartiality,
 if it had been expressed in general Terms? After all, there was not only Reason
 to expect that some Merchants would contest the Validity of the Act, but Mr.
 Lyonel Lyde actually sent Orders to his Factors to commence Suit, which was
 prevented by the Offer of a *Carte Blanche* from the Contractors; which I suppose
 they would not have made could they have litigated the Matter without being
 subject to the Expense of Litigation, so that the Colonel has only made Cause and
 Effect change Places. This is a Figure in Rhetorick that I think the Learned
 denominate *υστρεφον προτρεφον*, which Words may be translated into the vulgar Idiom
 by the Expression of topsyturvy, or the Cart drawing the Horse. It is well
 enough suited to the declamatory Stile, but will not pass in Logick for the strictest
 and purest Ratiocination.

" I know that the plainest Demonstration is lost upon Men who are under the
 " Influence of Prejudice, or an obstinate Disposition of Mind: Such Men will
 " never want Ground for Wrangling, especially if they have any By Purposes
 " to serve." In this Observation the Colonel and the Rector and I are at last
 entirely agreed, but where the Application is to fall I fairly leave to the Reader,
 only begging him to remember that the Rector aims to recover his Property out
 of the Jaws of unjust Acts, and the Colonel to increase his Property by the Means
 of such Acts.

" But (P. 30), as his Reverence is a great Master of Reason, and is acquainted
 " with the Nature and Principles of Government, I will communicate this Con-
 " ference to him, which, as soon as he has reconnoitred, I doubt not will receive
 " a proper Reply." The Colonel has now been reconnoitred, in Compliance

with his Desire, by the Rector's Amanuensis; which I hope will do as well as if done by the Rector himself, will be esteemed by the Colonel a proper Reply, and a sufficient Proof that the Colonel's confident Expectation of receiving such a Reply was well grounded.

Thus have I gone through the Colonel's last Attempt, Page by Page, omitting nothing material, and I am afraid not without tiring my Reader; yet, having catched a Love of the miscellaneous Manner, from my Conversation with the Rector, I beg Permission to indulge this Inclination a little.

The Colonel constantly accuses the Rector of throwing Contempt on the Legislature. Two Things, according to my Instructions, the Rector would desire to be considered on this Head: One is, that the greater any Charge is, the clearer ought to be the Proof on which it is founded; whereas the Colonel is constantly severest in the Charge when he has the least to urge in Proof. The other is, that the Colonel uses this Term *The Legislature*, and most other complex Terms, in a very vague Manner, just as he pleases, and will best serve his present Purpose; sometimes bundling under the same Term one Set of Ideas, and sometimes another. If it could be clearly made appear that any unmannerly or unjustifiable Reflexions had escaped the Rector's Pen on any Part of the Legislature, or any Persons in Authority, he would undoubtedly think himself much to blame, and be very sorry for such an Offence. He would plead perhaps in his Excuse that he had been carried too far by a Zeal for Liberty and Property, and Self-Defence, concerning Points on which he was attacked by his prudent Adversaries. This the Colonel would object to, because he would say in doing this the Rector commends himself. Such a Commendation, however, of a Man's Self, in his own Defence, when bitterly accused, I could easily show to be no Way unbecoming the most modest Person, from a Cloud of the best Authorities; but I pass by an Opportunity of making an unnecessary Parade with my Reading, nor will I be at the Pains of justifying such Behaviour, so much as I might, from the Example of the Colonel himself, in the very Piece which we have been examining. Only thus much I will say, that the Rector cannot surely be supposed to have taken more Freedom with any Person in Authority than the Colonel takes with the King himself, when he compares Royal Instructions to *French* and *Turkish* Edicts, and the like. The Apology, therefore, which the Colonel uses in this Case, may for what I know serve for the Rector in any other, which take in the following Words: "I have (P. 26) replied the Colonel, a high Reverence for the Majesty of the King's Authority, and shall upon every Occasion yield a due Obedience to all its just Powers and Prerogatives; but Submission even to the supreme Magistrate is not the whole Duty of a Citizen, especially such a Submission as he himself does not require: Something is likewise due to the Rights of our Country, and to the Liberties of Mankind." This Apo-

logy, being in the Colonel's own Words, will I hope be sure of his Approbation. But when the Colonel means, by talking of Disrespect and Contempt, that he would not have his Adversaries write freely about the Matter in Dispute, because he is a Member of Assembly, as it is plain he sometimes does, the Rector thinks that this shows a Cruelty and Insolence in the Colonel's Temper not to be revered or encouraged, in as much as it is a Proof that he desires to deprive a Lofer of his ancient Right of talking. It would not perhaps be altogether amiss in the Colonel, as a Friend to the Rights of his Fellow Subjects and the Liberties of Mankind, if he would sometimes consider the Respect due to little Folks, as well as that due to the Great; for, as I take it, there is a reciprocal Obligation. And if Respect due to little Folks be like them small, it is so much the easier paid. For which Reason an Omission here may possibly be less excusable than that of not always paying Respect to the Great to the last Mite, especially if the Demand from the Great should at any Time happen to be so high as quite to exceed the Abilities of the poor Debtor, and render him a Bankrupt. What I mean by all this, so far as it relates to the Colonel, is, that if there be great Respect due to those who have the Honour to be chosen the Representatives of the People, which cannot be denied, there is also some Respect due to the Electors of those Representatives, which I suppose the Colonel, however he may forget it at other Times, will allow; and probably Cap in Hand, some Days at least before a new Election. The Colonel might do well to remember that it becomes a Lover of Liberty and Politeness, such as he aims at being thought, to be content with the Portion of Respect which the Laws have provided for him; that all beyond this is free and voluntary, and more can hardly be demanded or exacted by any Person with a good Grace; and that this legal Respect is due from the Colonel to all the Ranks above and below him, as well as from other Persons to the Colonel's Rank. Neither should the Colonel be too sore and touchy on the Head of Respect to expired Assemblies, if Report say true, that he had once a Pamphlet on its Road to Glasgow, not altogether so fit for the home Press, and that he was obliged to the Wind for keeping him from getting on the other Side of the Hedge, and telling us another Story. I know nothing of a Piece with the Colonel's modest Claim of Licentiousness for himself and C^o, while he betrays a warm Inclination to prune the Liberty of others to the quick; but a very late Proposition from a Gentleman of distinguished Moderation, who while he was in the Act of enjoying the courageous Pleasure of decrying the Measures of the King of Great Britain and his Parliament, in not the most decent and respectful Terms, humbly requested that his Fellow Subjects and Constituents might be restrained from writing or speaking a Word in Favour of the said King and Parliament's Proceedings, by a spirited Resolve to render the Persons so offending prejudged, and condemned Enemies to their Country, with an Intention no Doubt of subjecting them to be treated accordingly. Had this Motion been complied with, such a spirited Resolve would to be sure have been a much more

compendious and safe Method of settling the Dispute between the King and Parliament of *Great Britain* on the one Side, and their Opponents in the Colonies on the other, than the tedious Way of History, Deduction, and Argument; but as this Scheme did not succeed, I hope the worthy Projector of it will not be offended if I place myself among those who are content to hold their Liberty under the King and Parliament of *Great Britain*, and openly profess to think the sacred Deposite safer in their Hands than if it should be removed into any other whatever upon the Face of the Earth.

As the Colonel in the Beginning of his Piece bestows an Encomium upon a Common-Place Book, and shows the great Use to be made of such an Assistant, I make no Doubt but he keeps one wherein to put down the choice Passages that he meets with in the Course of his Reading; which may serve as Fools or wise Mens Caps for his Acquaintance and Correspondents, whether Friends or Enemies. From this Treasury of old fashioned Caps, which contains Abundance of them, not only ready made up, but well finished, and sometimes nicely set off with a costly Edging, and in all Points such as the greatest Men in former Ages have not disdained to wear, he lately took it into his Mind to send a Parcel of them to the Rector. I have tried most of them one by one upon the Rector's Head, and *bondâ fide* declare that it does not appear that any of this Parcel, though otherwise Praise-worthy, will fit him. They are therefore in this Enclosure carefully returned safe and sound, with good Wishes that the Colonel may find a Market for them; and kind Advice that he will in the mean Time wear them himself, for two Reasons: First, because some of them may otherwise lie long upon his Hands, and grow mouldy; and secondly, because others of them are of such an excellent Texture that they will be never the worse, but rather the better, for his wearing them, should he continue to do it constantly as long as he lives.

C A P N° 1.

No prattling Gossip ——————
 Who with an Hundred Pair of Wings
 News from the furthest Quarters brings,
 Sees, hears, and tells, untold before,
 All that she knows, and ten Times more.

N° 2

————— belched out Smoke,
 And with outrageous Noise the Air,
 And all her Entrails tore, disgorging foul
 Their devilish Glut ——————

Nº 3.

Destroy his Fib or Sophistry, in vain ;
The Creature's at his dirty Work again.

Nº 4.

I have preferr'd my Duty,
The Good and Safety of my Fellow Subjects,
To all those Views that fire the selfish Race
Of Men.

Nº 5.

Thersites only clamour'd in the Throng,
Loquacious, loud, and turbulent of Tongue ;
And by no Shame, by no Respect controul'd,
In Scandal busy, in Reproaches bold :
With witty Malice studious to defame,
Scorn all his Joy, and Laughter all his Aim.

Nº 6.

Cum tot sustineas & tanta negotia solus,
moribus ornas
Legibus emendes ; in publica commoda peccem,
Si longo sermone morer tua tempore

I must needs say it was but a wild Kind of a Reverie in the Colonel to imagine that the Cap in particular marked N° 3 could fit any old Offender in the Sin of Writing so well as one who having promised to leave off Trade, and trouble his Customers no longer, found himself unable to keep so commendable a Resolution, and withstand the fresh Temptations which he had of renewing the Pleasure and Amusement of Scribbling. I humbly propose a small Alteration to be made in *Thersites*'s Cap, marked N° 5, to render it the fitter for the Colonel's wearing: *Witty*, as a Border for Malice, is rather too light and airy an Ornament for one of the Colonel's Complexion. Exchange it, if you please, for *heavy*. What think you of the Colonel's Modesty in offering this Cap to another, with so elegant a Riband for a Cue to it, as

Scorn all his Joy, and Laughter all his Aim,

when the Colonel himself not only makes publick Profession of withdrawing to *silent Contempt*, for Fear his Readers should think that he has done *scorning* when

he has done writing, but also endeavours to feed *Laughter* fat with *Banbury Cheeses*; nay, and has such an excellent Knack at raising a *Laugh*, that he does it more effectually when he least intends any such Thing, than I have known many others able to do with their utmost Aim and Study? As for old *Siffredi's* and *Augustus Cæsar's Caps*, marked N° 4 and 6, which are evidently the Works of eminent Masters in their Busines, they came to Hand turned wrong Side out, in so intricate and perplexed a Manner that I was not able to put them to Rights, and therefore had no Opportunity of trying whether they would exactly fit the Rector or not. No Gentleman, I am sure, would choose to wear them in the Plight and Condition in which they were offered; and therefore, if the Colonel cannot alter them, it may be a saving Scheme to wear them himself.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

If any Body wants a neat well trimmed Cap, to adorn his Head and keep it warm at the same Time, and also to serve as a Sign or Badge by which Strangers may know the Inside and Contents of the Wearer's Scull, and to what Class of Genius he belongs, it may be seen, by the above List of returned Caps, where the most eminent Cap Merchant dwells, and consequently where the Warehouse is kept; by Recourse to which, good, strong, ornamental, and significant Caps, are to be purchased at the most reasonable Rates."

After all, Reader, you may perhaps be backward to credit the Prodigy of which I have all along laboured to establish your Belief. You may think it is complimenting the Colonel too highly to suppose that he can write such sensible and ingenious Pamphlets without being awake, but you will surely be made easy in this Point when you consider that some Men sing, some whistle, some walk, and some perform other animal Functions, or follow other *Amusements*, in their Sleep, according to the different Kinds of Genius and Talents indulged them by the Favour of *Morpheus*. I have heard of one Man who was taken up two Miles from the Shore, as he was swimming, in a sound Sleep. If I mistake not, the Record of a Marble Tombstone might be produced for this Fact, and on Marble Tombstones you know nothing but Truth is ever related. There is another Thing far more extraordinary and surprising in the Colonel's Conduct: That Madam Drowsiness should have set him somewhat at Variance with Common Sense, Truth, or Reason, &c. would have been not at all wonderful, had she gone no further; but that she, who has the Character of being a Composer of Disturbances, should set him foul on Impertinence, Impudence, Sophistry, Abuse, and Misrepresentation, should make him quarrel with his dearest Friends and best Allies, not to mention his cutting and mangling himself at every Turn in so cruel and savage a Manner, is to me truly amazing. What an unpromising Undertaking it was to think of performing with Success and Applause the Part of a hu-

mourous Inveigher against Wit and Ridicule, a shameless Disclaimer against Imprudence, a Word-catching Railer at Sophistry, a calumniating Decrier of Obloquy, and a fibbling Reviler of Misrepresentation ! This it is which makes the Task of an Observer, or critical Remarker, so very easy ; for in Order to exhibit the Defects or Beauties, call them which you please, of the Colonel's Writings, such a Person has nothing to do but to take Notice what the Colonel unsuccessfully labours to make the Crimes of his Adversaries. Until the Colonel can be cured of so strange and lamentable a Delirium, what better Advice can be given than that Pen and Ink, and all other Implements of Danger, should be removed far out of his Reach and Presence ? For suppose, only for a Moment, that a Musket and plenty of Ammunition, should be carelessly left upon his Table, or in his Room ; what better Event could be expected but that he would suddenly snatch up the Piece, overload both with Powder and Lead, and fire away at the first impertinent and buzzing Insect that should presume to cross his Prospect ? And after such an indiscreet and blustering Action, what I pray could follow but that a Mixture of Flame and Smoke would be blown into his Eyes, the Gun would recoil and drive him flat on his Back, and do fatal Execution to the unfortunate Marksman himself ?

Before the Colonel makes a fourth Sally from the Press in the present Dispute, I could wish that his Friends would get him, if they can, to consider two Things, in one of his coolest Intervals : First, that he will be in Danger of being deserted by his Readers, which is the heaviest Misfortune that can fall upon any sanguine Writer, and obliges him to make such a Figure as the Entertainer makes who continues the Feast too long, and after every Body has had a Surfeit proceeds to tire and disgust his Guests by serving up an infinite Multitude of Delicacies that no Mortal can touch a Bit of. In the next Place, that the *silent Contempt*, which he professes to retain for his Adversary, may become reciprocal ; and I too, as well as the Rector, may possibly leave him in the Lurch altogether, or at most content myself with a very brief Reply, after the Example set me in an old Story, which I beg Leave to repeat. An offended Officer, too furious to keep in Mind that fundamental Principle in Mechanicks which lays down Reaction to be equal to Action, bestowed Stroke after Stroke, with reiterated Violence, on a hardy raw-boned Soldier, as unfeeling as if he had been cased in Steel, and one who minded Blows no more than so many Drops of Rain or Flakes of falling Snow. This Veteran, being thus armed, stood still with all Submission to receive Correction from his Superior, and made no Return but that of the few Words which follow, uttered with an undaunted Countenance and smiling Calmness : Pray your Honour do not hurt yourself. If moved by such Considerations as these the Colonel recover so far as to think in Earnest of restraining the Fury of his Pen, and fulfilling the Promise he made the Publick some Time ago, about retiring to enjoy the solitary Satisfaction of silent Contempt, in this Case I become his Friend

and humble Servant, and promise not to apply in my own Commendation that cutting Aphorism from the Mouth of a certain Character in an old Play, *Tacent, satis laudant*; which, for the Benefit of the mere English Reader, I thus translate:

Silence is Praise enough from them
Whose Rancour goads them to condemn.

Further, to oblige the Colonel, and take a handsome Leave of him and others of his Corps, I shall conclude with an Apologue and an Epigram.

The F A B L E.

VANITY, a SATYR, and FAME.

WITH full blown *Vanity* a *Satyr* met,
Who lov'd to see the Self-Admirer fret.
O Goddess! what a Flood of Light! he cries.
What peerless Lips! and what resistless Eyes!
But, Pity 'tis, the Pimple on your Nose,
A Cloud to stain this dazzling Heaven has rose.

‘Tis your censorious Temper makes you see,
Replies the Goddess, any Spot in me.
Through such a Medium of inventive Spleen
No Wonder visionary Specks are seen.
But I admire it should your Wit escape,
What an unsightly Twist has spoil'd my Shape!
A Twist like that, which straightest Wands present,
When from the limpid Rill they catch a Bent.
By Wit refracted let the devious Ray
Obliquity to faultless Shape convey;
Let Envy, stealing happy Moments, calm
Her in-bred Agonies with Fiction's Balm;
I doubt not to be freed from artful Blame,
That Guile and Malice forge, by juster Fame.

Fame, whom the Poets plant with thickset Ears,
As well as Tongues, without Delay appears.
What Favour, *Vanity*, have you to ask?
Explain your Wish, assign my present Task.

O *Fame*, to whom I with Devotion bow,
To whose unbiass'd Praise my Bliss I owe,

This hideous *Satyr* here, not half so soul
 Of Feature in his Form as in his Soul,
 Ev'n to my Face with wild Presumption fays
 Some Cloud advances to pollute its Rays.
 And to thy Voice, impeach'd by none, I leave,
 Him of the fancied Dagger to bereave;
 By which he views, so strong is gay Conceit,
 My Quiet stabb'd and bleeding at his Feet.

This hideous *Satyr* will, says *Fame*, sometimes
 Small Blemishes extend to mighty Crimes:
 And, rather than from cavilling desist,
 Those Blemishes discern where none exist.
 But how unjust at present is his Sneer,
 Shall in a Moment on the Spot appear.
 For (of my Office now to give a Cast)
 Through this my baleful Trumpet hear a Blast.

This said, with all her Might the Goddess blew,
 Resolv'd to give th' Offender Payment due.
 Lo ! *Vanity*, beneath the piercing Sound,
 In fainting Fits, sinks lifeless on the Ground ;
 Drain'd like a Flower that, lately rising fair,
 Has glutted with its Charms the biting Air,
 Whose ruffian Breath, that Pity never knew,
 Drinks the rich Scent, supplants the lovely Hue,
 And, raging common Mischief to outdo,
 Is not content to rob, but murders too.
 Stretch'd out and pale, this Deity at most
 Mimicks the Corse of a departed Toast.
 Nor does the frightful Fit release its Prey,
 'Till *Fame* and *Vengeance* wing their distant Way.
 Then *Vanity* recruits by slow Degrees,
 The feeble Victor of a fierce Disease.
 Such Devastation lingers in her Face,
 She dares not boast its late unquestioned Grace.
 So Beauty-plundered, such a shrivell'd Hag,
 Not *Vanity* is bold enough to brag.
 She quits the Scene, by drooping *Shame* led off,
 And follow'd by the *Satyr*'s broadest Scorn.
 For he, who at the first had only smil'd,
 Laughs out at *Vanity*, so Self-beguil'd.

The Fable done, to find the Moral out,
 Among thy Neighbours, Reader, look about ;
 But never help to give thyself a Slap,
 Or snatch to thine from other Heads the Cap :
 See through what Crowds presuming Errour runs,
 From *Vanity* descending to her Sons.
 How many, charg'd with some Defect of Sense,
 Their Folly blazon in their own Defence ;
 And, not content some gentle Strokes to feel,
 Bring more and heavier by a fond Appeal !
 So *L*—, thought by many to be mad,
 From ranting Speeches most sublimely bad,
 Cannot be quiet, 'till the Press displays
 His mounting Fury's Cloud-envelop'd Blaze.
 So *D*—, the Charge of one ill-guarded Lie
 With fertile Labour struggles to deny ;
 'Till his fermented Candour, boiling o'er,
 Of viler Falsehoods spits abroad a Score.
 So *J*—, his *S*—, censur'd by a few,
 To prove how little Country Criticks knew,
 Printing the Piece with *D*———— sweet,
 Gets doubly d—d by Criticks small and great.

Some forward Duples of pert Imagination
 By it are drawn to tarnish every Station ;
 Except a few, too high for Censure's Aim,
 Possess'd by mingling Suns, of purest Flame ;
 Amidst whose Beams, so shining and so hot,
 'Twere criminal to spy the smallest Spot ;
 'Twould make an Eagle's Eye with Pains bemoan,
 With penal Tears the rash Attempt atone.

How vain their Pomp, who style it having rose,
 On slender Shoulders, when they but impose
 A tow'ring Load ; with which, whate'er they think,
 Each Eye beholds them miserably sink,
 Deceiv'd, like Porters, who should dream a Weight,
 That bends the Body, must improve its Height !
 Or, if to please them, it must be believ'd
 That they have risen ; they are then deceiv'd,
 Like Knight and Squire : They mount a wooden Steed,
 And fly aloft with most amazing Speed ;

The Wonder-working Veil that blinds their Eyes,
 With rapid Motion darts them through the Skies,
 And bids their View with lucid Visions burn,
 Food for a Tale, if they should e'er return !
 Here *Clavileno* bursts, the Charm unbound
 Expands the Riders sprawling on the Ground ;
 Which they, who seem'd among the Stars to rove,
 Had never been a Dozen Feet above.
 Thus Glory's Vagrants, with a swelling Mind,
 Jump on Ambition's Back, before, behind ;
 And, lifted in Idea very high,
 Surpris'd with Wonders in the neighb'ring Sky,
 Cannot but think, nay boldly boast aloud,
 How far we soar above the drudging Crowd !
 How distant are the Tribes immers'd in Wants !
 Poor useful Souls ! they look like toiling Ants ;
 While each of us on Air-born Couches nods,
 Lolling like *Epicurus'* lazy Gods —
 In vain this Pride of Eminence in Place,
 Without the Requisites such Height to grace.
 For quickly Satyr's Smile, or Fortune's Frown,
 Will yield a Whip to jerk the Strollers down.
 They fall like Comets with a flaming Train,
 And growing Force, but not to rise again.

Vain is of Praise the Writer's empty Claim,
 On Flattery's Base who builds his tottering Fame ;
 Who lets the Favour firm and lasting seem,
 That stands on no Foundation of Esteem ;
 Whose daubing Busines 'tis to varnish Flaws ;
 Who gives and takes unmerited Applause ;
 Who Altars to some mortal Power erects,
 And sacrifices Truth to sooth Defects ;
 Who picks with Care the blooming fragrant Phrase,
 A Smoke of soft Perfume intent to raise ;
 And madly fancies every Stander-by
 Will view his Incense with a Patron's Eye ;
 While every Voice condemns him to endure
 Even worse Affliction than to be obscure.
 Well fare the Pen, that Worship at the Shrine
 Of Error scorns, and will not creep to shine ;

That not consults alone some Master's Ease,
 But more aspires to benefit than please ;
 That, if the Powers of Genius aid the Strains,
 The proudest Folly with Success arraigns ;
 Filling with Joy the too indulgent Friend,
 And making Foes against their Will command.
 But, when at Vice is made an honest Shoot,
 If Want of Force alone, the Zeal to suit,
 Renders each Arrow impotent of Flight,
 'Tis Satisfaction that our Aim was right.
 No conscious Feelings their Alliance bring
 To swell with Venom Disappointment's Sting.
 We hear unmov'd the rude external Din
 That barks around, when all is Peace within.

Even Numbers strive, where Nature has deny'd,
 The Gifts requir'd to gratify their Pride ;
 As if to cultivate they did not toil,
 But to create, in Spite of Heaven, a Soil.
 They see not that they grate the grinding Share
 On jarring Rocks, a little more than bare,
 Whose Shoulder-Blades, its Thinness to display,
 Peep through a ragged Coat of hopeless Clay.
 Can we but smile, when Sots profound in Lore,
 By quacking on themselves, improve the Sore ?
 'Tis not enough to smart with Nature's Curse ;
 They summon blinking Craft to make it worse.
 Can Laughter overlook a Race of Elves,
 Profuse of juggling Tricks, to cheat themselves ;
 Whom Fairies with a Lanthorn never need
 From Paths of Safety study to mislead ?
 Through Fields unknown they darkling lose their Way,
 And into Ditches Self-deluded stray ;
 Mov'd by an *Ignis fatuus* in their Heads,
 That o'er the Brain seducing Lustre sheds.
 Cease roving Muse ! for what Attempt more vain,
 Than of this wand'ring Light to hurt the Reign ?
 From such Illumination wholly free
 What Mortal lives ? The Rector sure. For he
 From faithful Lights can never want Advice,
 Who gouty Feet commits to rotten Ice ;

Less fleet than *Bl-* in tripping o'er a Bog ;
 Scarce less bemir'd than *C-*'s mud-drown'd Frog ;
 Reduc'd to so unpromising a State,
 And (hapless Wight !) so very near his Fate,
 Impatient Rumour stays not to extend
 Her helping Hand. Should she postpone his End ?
 And spoil the Tale her Bowels yearn'd to spread
 Of what a fatal Whim had seiz'd his Head ?
 She saw him—in the River—gasp for Breath—
 And round his Neck—the freezing Arms of Death.
 In this Relation though too far she went,
 Yet with the Progress she is not content.
 But panting still, as Wonder-Mongers use,
 To be deliver'd of the weighty News,
 Avers he must have been—beyond all Doubt—
 Soon after—by a Friend—thank Heaven !—laid out.
 Think not incredible the Story grows,
 When it a Friend to lay him out allows ;
 For none behave so ill as at their End
 To be deny'd this Office of a Friend.

On a short Crop of Liberty in the Tribuneship of *Oliver H-- and R----- Bl---*.

Nihilne esse proprium cuiquam ? —

FO R Liberty consistent *H--* cries,
 Who Liberty of Writing, Speech denies.
 Alike with Majesty and Justice wroth,
 He counsels Juries to despise an Oath.
 Happy Expedients does he not contrive
 To keep our boasted *British* Rights alive ?

Bl-, who explodes a fair and equal Tax,
 Sharpens for Property his Twop'ny Ax ;
 And bids Authority (if her he like)
 The Weapon grasp, without Compassion strike.
 Can it beget your Wonder then if he,
 With odious *Filmer*, in the End agree ?

How would our Hearts (say both !) with Rapture burn,
 Would *Cromwell*, righteous *Cromwell*, NOW return !

What mean by Liberty those Chiefs so wise ?
 What else but Liberty to tyrannise ?
 Are those our Orators to let us see
 How dear our precious Liberty should be ?
 Elect them Consuls for a single Year,
 And Liberty will grow exceeding dear ;
 Dear as Tobacco, when a biting Air
 Has thinn'd its Ranks, and made it very rare,
 So rare that Sixpence every Pound commands
 Of all that lies in honest Laymens Hands ;
 And Twopence you permit the Church to charge ye,
 For what belongs unto the wicked Clergy,
 Unless you choose, in such a Time of Need,
 To keep the Cash and throw away the Weed.
 A just Proportion ! cries the Man of Candour,
 So little blinded by his Wealth and Grandeur,
 *One Sauce, he owns, is fit for Goose and Gander.

{

* See the Rector Detected.

An EPIGRAM.

On AUTHORITY,

According to the Figure given thereof by the COLONE L.

A SSEMBLY Acts, if John find Fault with, hence
 Springs to Authority a vast Offence ;
 But Acts of Parliament, if Richard call
 Erroneous Acts, 'tis no Offence at all.
 If John be bold enough to break a Joke
 On Fellow Writers, 'twill the State provoke ;
 If Richard be inclin'd to have a Fling,
 It is a Peccadille, if at the King.
 Authority is a capricious Maid,
 Huff'd at the Sayer, not at what is said ;
 With Richard so enamour'd, that he may
 Be sure of Smiles, whatever he shall say ;
 With John so peevish and disdainful grown,
 Advance he what he will, he earns a Frown.

G

Advertisement.

THIS Piece is singly Half a Crown current Money, and cannot be afforded under in a Country where even Pamphlet Readers are not very thick; notwithstanding the deep and poignant Remarks of a profound Table-making and facetious Orator, who, in a Cause of much Expectation, thought proper to entertain the General Court, on the Exorbitancy of Half a Crown for a Pamphlet and Fourpence for a Clyster Pipe: Which Prices, when compared with those of *Mercer's Abridgement, &c.* have no Need to blush, as not being out of Proportion; or, if they be, not on the extravagant Side. However, since the Rector, grown as rich as he expected by Pamphleteering, has given me for my Wages and Encouragement all the Stock now remaining on Hand, that I may accommodate my poor Customers on as moderate and easy Terms as possible, he who will take the Rector's three Publications, paying down for them all five Shillings, shall receive this of mine *gratis*. I would have further mended the Bargain, by throwing in the Rector's Observations on Colonel *Bland's Letter* to him published in the Gazette; but I am herein forestalled by the Colonel, who has taken the Sale of the said Observations to himself, not for the Sake of swelling a Pamphlet to the enormous Price of Half a Crown, which he utterly abhors; not moved by any pecuniary Considerations, which he is far above, but out of pure Regard to fair Dealing, and the sole Benefit of Purchasers.

The Rector's Amanuensis.



